

U.S.-China trade war looms

BELING (R) — China on Saturday announced a series of retaliatory measures after the United States put \$2.8 billion worth of Chinese goods on a tentative list for punitive tariffs, Xinhua news agency said. The threatened retaliation included suspending talks on joint ventures with major U.S. automobile manufacturers, it said. The United States has listed \$2.8 billion in Chinese goods that could be hit with sanctions unless China moves to halt piracy of U.S. compact discs, computer software and other copyright goods. A statement by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor's office said the list would be open for public comment for 30 days and that he would make a final decision on trade sanctions on Feb. 4. Mr. Kantor also died the dispute to China's request for admission to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor, the World Trade Organization. The United States has opposed Chinese membership.

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Jordan Times

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Happy New Year

The Jordan Times will not appear on Monday, Jan. 2, 1995, due to the New Year holiday on Sunday, Jan. 1, 1995. The next issue of the paper will be published on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The editor and staff of the Jordan Times wish the paper's readers and advertisers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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Russians storm Grozny against fierce resistance

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian soldiers stormed Grozny on Saturday, blazing their way through heavy Chechen resistance to the centre of the city.

Russian tanks and armoured cars, hacked by a colossal artillery barrage, war planes and helicopters, pushed through Grozny suburbs to finally crush the Caucasus republic's three-year independence drive.

A kilometre from the centre, a huge fire gushing black smoke could be seen in the direction of the presidential palace, but residents said the fire came from a burning oil tank. A Chechen television camera left running in the window of the central building continued to transmit grainy pictures of Russian armoured vehicles blazing in all directions around the main square.

The Chechen defence chief appeared on television just before 5:00 p.m. and, appearing quite calm, said that the defence of the city was going well, that 50 Russian armoured vehicles had been destroyed and prisoners taken.

In Moscow, officials at the Defence Ministry said the Russian troops had not made "extraordinary efforts" to take Grozny by force but were simply carrying out "a takeover of the city in line with plans prepared in advance," Interfax news agency said.

The "highly placed" officials did not rule out a "pause" in the fighting as midnight and the New Year came closer.

Russian news agencies reported from Grozny that several buildings in the city

centre were on fire, including a palace formerly used by Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. A petrol storage depot was also in flames.

It was not clear from the reports whether the targets in the centre were hit by planes or artillery.

Russian President Boris

Yeltsin said on Tuesday air raids on Grozny would stop. But journalists, speaking by telephone, said several civilians were killed in the raids, which also damaged a five-storey apartment block and other buildings.

They said it was impossible to determine the number of casualties immediately but quoted a fleeing resident as saying: "The night was so quiet that most of us had left the bomb shelters when the planes came."

A Russian government information centre, set up to present an official version of events in Chechnya, was unable to give any information and declined to confirm or deny the air raid.

The journalists said bombs landed not far from an oil refinery which has been on fire since Thursday. The blaze sent thick clouds of smoke billowing over the city.

Grozny had no water or electricity and long queues formed outside the new bakeries still working, they said.

Reuter photographers

quoted Russian officers as saying Chechen forces had stepped up their guerrilla campaign. Mines blew up three cars from one unit alone on Thursday night and several servicemen were wounded, they said.

The all-out assault began

Saturday with dawn air raids on Chechen stations outside Grozny and on at least one civilian neighbourhood, followed by a deafening artillery and rocket duel, with rounds exploding every couple of seconds for sustained periods.

The decision to storm Grozny was taken as Russian troops, sent to Chechnya three weeks ago to crush the Muslim republic's independence, were getting bogged down in clashes with highly mobile but lightly armed Chechens.

After about six hours of intense fighting, an uneasy quiet hung over the blackened city. Only sporadic small arms fire and the almost constant buzzing of jets could be heard.

The battle was fought out under an apocalyptic sky, black with oil smoke from vast storage containers around the city repeatedly bombed by Russian air-planes.

The sun was virtually blotted out by 2:30 p.m. and Chechens said the darkness would serve their hit-and-run street fighting tactics well.

Several fighters said the Chechen counterattack could only begin now that the Russians were caught in narrow streets. The tactic worked on Nov. 26 when a pro-Russian Chechen force made it to central Grozny, but was then devastated by anti-tank weapons in streetfighting.

In the labyrinth of side streets and alleys leading up to the presidential palace, Chechens weaved and sprinted to avoid the snipers, who duelled through the trees and down deserted streets. Red and yellow tracer

rounds could be seen flying over houses and bullets whined through the air.

"On the (central) rail crossing they were shooting at everybody, whether they were armed or not. Someone was killed in front of my eyes with a heavy machine gun," said Rustan Matayev, a 30-year-old mechanic.

But in the battle for Grozny, the line between civilian and non-civilian is blurred.

As two tanks rumbled by in the darkness, a man in civilian clothes dashed up to check whether they were Chechen or Russian. "They were ours. Otherwise they would have got this," he grinned, taking a grenade from his anorak pocket.

Chechens, in groups of four or five, moved quickly through the tortuous back streets, pausing sometimes to listen for planes or the direction of sniper fire.

One squad armed with grenades and rifles set off to hunt a sniper, another manned a heavy machine gun hidden under a pile of branches, and another crouched silently in the shelter of a garden gate, armed with rocket propelled grenades.

"We've come from home, we heard there was war and we've come to give our help to the president, our sovereignty and our freedom," said one volunteer soldier, Ahmed Adamyev, a 32-year-old taxi driver off to the front with four friends.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al Akri was arrested a week ago for trying to hand a letter to the emir, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, calling for the restoration of parliament, diplomats said from Cyprus said.

Hundreds of young Shiites protested in Manama and other Shiite areas for several days after the arrest of cleric Sheikh Ali Salman on Dec. 5.

Sheikh Ali was also arrested for handing a letter to the emir asking for parliament suspended in 1975 to be restored.

Diplomats said Sheikh Mohammad, who had called for dialogue during the troubles condemning the street protests and the use of violence wanted to hand over a letter containing demands made by Bahraini theologians.

The ulema have already called for "the restoration of parliamentary life as soon as possible, a radical end to the problems of unemployment, a wage increase and price controls."

They also demanded "freedom of the press and expression, the release of political detainees, and an end to the violation of citizens' rights, in particular the right to travel and return to the country,"

The opposition in exile, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), said 15 people were killed in the protests which erupted after Sheikh Ali's arrest and more than 2,000 arrested.

Bahraini authorities said only one person, a policeman, had been killed.

Meanwhile in Sitra, close to Manama, household rubbish has not been collected for more than two weeks to punish demonstrators who destroyed the authorities' vehicles during the unrest, witnesses said.

Foreign nationals in Manama have been urged to leave the country in letters from unidentified opposition groups angry at the violence they enjoy while the original inhabitants are without work."

The London-based IFLB said in a statement that protests erupted on Thursday in at least eight areas of the country. It reported arrests in several areas and said protesters pelted police with stones.

Witnesses said demonstrators charged scores of Israeli troops guarding the construction site. Demonstrators also threw stones at border police troops, knocking one unconscious and cutting another in the forehead.

Troops pushed back the protesters, in some cases clubbing them.

Dr. Tibi said troops provoked the demonstrators.

"I am sorry to say that there were instructions to do so. Soldiers invaded 200 metres inside the demonstration and started to hit people."



Chechen volunteers guard the presidential palace in Grozny's main square on Friday. Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent New Year greetings to his troops in Chechnya, urging

them to do their duty, while rebel President Dzhokhar Dudayev of Chechnya issued an appeal for a new year ceasefire (AFP photo).

Second Bahraini cleric held

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A leading Shiite Muslim cleric

has been arrested in Bahrain, where clashes erupted earlier in December after a similar arrest reportedly leaving 15 people dead; diplomats said Saturday.

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Jordan hopes mini-summit positive for Arab World

Jordan-Syria ties 'quiet, no enmity' — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan views the Arab mini-summit held in Alexandria grouping the heads of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia as a "positive gathering of Arab leaders that could result in benefits to the Arab World," Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Saturday.

In a statement to British radio on Saturday, the prime minister said he hoped such meetings would help end differences among Arab countries so that Arab reconciliation and solidarity could be restored.

"Jordan has always been calling for Arab meetings where the Arab leaders could eliminate their differences," said the prime minister, who reiterated his earlier proposal for rescheduling differences in views among Arab states and enhancing the "positive elements that tend to bring the Arabs closer together."

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Referring to Jordan's ties with Syria, Dr. Majali said it was a "quiet relationship void of any form of enmity." Each country has its own approach of handling the peace process, he said. But

he denied that Jordan has concluded a peace separate from the other Arab parties.

"We stand alongside Syria and we wish that Damascus would reach a formula by which it would ensure its full rights," said Dr. Majali, "we encourage this trend and work towards making it come true."

The prime minister's statement came one day after the Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdal Meguid described the Arab mini-summit in Alexandria as a turning point in the Arab regional and international arenas.

He said the summit would have a positive impact on the Arab Nation.

General strike called in Algeria as priests buried

ALGIERS (Agencies) —

Berber movements called for a general strike in Tizi Ouzou, the capital of Algeria's Grand Kabylie region Saturday during the burial of three of the four priests murdered there on Tuesday.

Algerian press reports said

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Heavy fighting erupts in Somali capital

MOGADISHU (R) — Heavy clan fighting broke out on Saturday in a central district of Somalia's capital and the last Zimbabwean troops left for home as part of a U.N. military pullout.

Witnesses said battles between Abgal and Murusade militiamen erupted in Bermeda district late in the morning with fighters using mortars, recoilless cannon and anti-tank rockets.

There were no immediate casualty reports available.

It was the worst violence in the capital since Abgal gunmen overran areas in Medina district held by Murusade 10 days ago after street-to-street clashes that killed more than 20 people.

Mogadishu is seen as a strategic area to hold because it is close to the U.N.-controlled airport, which Bermeda overlooks.

The Abgal militiamen are loyal to self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad while the Murusade are led by Mohammad Kanyare Afrah, who defected in September from Mr. Ali Mahdi's coalition to Mohammad Farah Aideed's rival Somali National Alliance.

U.N. military spokesman Major Zubair Chatha said a U.N. chartered plane carrying the last 300 Zimbabwean troops earlier on Saturday.

The Zimbabweans had two men killed during their one-year stay in Somalia, where failure of warlords to agree on peace prompted the U.N. Security Council to order all forces out.

A spokesman for a consortium of Somali aid agencies said its secretary-general, Aweys Maye, was freed in Mogadishu on Friday, three days after he was kidnapped by gunmen demanding a ransom.

The spokesman said no ransom was paid for Mr. Maye, the second Somali aid



Palestinians protest during a Peace Now demonstration in El Khader Friday against the construction work for an enlargement of the Israeli settlement Ephraim. The peaceful protest turned violent when demonstrators started to march

towards the disputed hillside against Israeli army orders. Several people were wounded and many arrests were made (AFP photo)

U.N. probes Iraq-Kuwait border shooting

KUWAIT (R) — United Nations observers said on Saturday they are investigating the wounding of one of their unarmed officers on the volatile Iraq-Kuwait border but are patrolling as normal in the meantime.

"The military observers continue to observe the border at day and night quite normally," Saleem Fahmawi, United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission (UNIKOM) spokesman, told Reuters.

A Romanian UNIKOM observer, Captain Danut Iovanov, was wounded by bullets fired from the Iraqi side of the border while on a routine patrol early on Thursday.

"The incident will not de-

ter observers from performing their duty," Mr. Fahmawi said. "It is an isolated incident as far as we are concerned."

"We are conducting an investigation and until it is finished we cannot say anything (further),"

Capt. Iovanov, receiving treatment in a Kuwaiti hospital, told Reuters he will resume his duties after recovering from wounds in both legs caused by bullets from an AK-47 rifle.

UNIKOM says about 40 bullets were fired from two positions on the Iraqi side of the border at the UNIKOM vehicle patrolling on the Kuwaiti side. Ten bullets hit the car.

The previously-unmarked border had been disputed for decades. The border strip,

despite its status as a demilitarized zone after Iraq's expulsion from Kuwait, remains tense.

Tensions flared in October when Baghdad sent troops toward the border, sparking fears of a repeat of the August 1990 invasion.

In August, gunmen ambushed and shot dead one Bangladeshi U.N. soldier and wounded another on the border. The U.N. protested to Iraq about the shooting, describing it as a "criminal act."

On Nov. 10, Iraq renounced its longstanding claim to Kuwait when it announced that it officially recognised the emirate as a sovereign state within its U.N.-demarcated borders.

Egypt says it thwarted revival of militant group

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said on Friday it had thwarted an attempt by convicted Muslim militants to revive a guerrilla group which planned assassinations and attacks on vital state institutions on Thursday.

The interior ministry statement said five men — four of them behind bars and one on trial from a death sentence — masterminded the planning of the "New Vanguard of Conquest," one of a series of groups tracing themselves back to the "jihad" group which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

It said security forces had arrested about 40 others, capturing automatic rifles, ammunition and knives as well as foreign currency and gold jewellery meant to finance their operations.

It named the leader of the group as Yasser Tawfiq Ali Al-Simi, on the run from a death sentence for involvement in the attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Atif Seidi last year.

The group also claimed a failed assassination bid against Interior Minister Hassan Al-Atifi in August 1993. Five people were killed, including two of the assailants.

Military courts have sentenced 13 members of the group to death since the earlier round-up.

Three of the four who planned the relaunch of the group from behind bars were members of jihad, the organisation respectively of Al-Ahram newspaper, be respected.

In a copy of the letter received by AFP, the organisation "protests vehemently" against the detention of Adel Hussein and the order for the editor to appear in court.

Adel Hussein, who is 62, has been hospitalised since his detention for angina problems.

The AIRbus hijack was the most spectacular incursion of the Algerian conflict into

sources said gunmen, suspected to be members of Egypt's largest militant group, the Gama'a Al-Islamiyah, shot dead a policeman at his home in south Egypt late on Thursday.

They said the gunmen killed Fahmy Farag Ibrahim, 62, at his home in the village of Naway near the town of Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo.

The Gama'a launched a campaign of violence against the government of President Hosni Mubarak in March 1992 to set up a strict Muslim state.

More than 550 people, mainly police and militants, have since been killed in Egypt since political violence broke out in 1992.

The organisation Reporters Without Frontiers protested Friday in a letter to President Hosni Mubarak against the detention of an Islamic fundamentalist journalist.

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Algeria group declares war on France over hijack

PARIS (AFP) — An armed Algerian Islamic group has declared open war on France, warning of action "in coming days" and fueling growing fears that the conflict in the former colony could spread to the French mainland.

The declaration, by the armed wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), climaxed a week of fears of reprisals following the bloody end to last weekend's Air France AIRbus hijack, in which four fundamentalist hijackers were killed.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) said that "war against France has become a legal duty" under Islamic Sharia law, because the French government had been shown to be in collaboration with the Algiers regime by the hijack drama.

The Algerian nation is today directly in conflict with France and all those who support it, including the Jews and Christians of the world," it said in the latest edition of its newsletter, Al Feth Al Mounie (crushing victory).

"The AIS groups are capable of hitting France on its own territory and the coming days will show, with God's help, their capacity to strike the unbeliever in his own home," it said.

The AIS is the armed wing of the FIS, which has spearheaded the fundamentalist insurgency against the Algerian government since the army cancelled January 1992 elections. The AIRbus was poised to win.

The AIRbus hijack was the most spectacular incursion of the Algerian conflict into

mainland France, the former colonial power from which Algeria became independent in 1962, since the latest surge in bloodshed three years ago.

French nationals and interests in Algeria have been increasingly targeted by the fundamentalists, notably the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) which carried out the AIRbus hijack — who have for long accused Paris of backing the Algiers regime.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany allocates further aid to Palestinians

BONN (R) — Germany has said it was allocating a further 21.4 million marks (\$13.8 million) to support economic development in the Palestinian autonomous areas and to help defuse political and economic tension. Bonn's ministry for economic cooperation and development said five million marks (\$3.2 million) would be earmarked for job creation through the construction of schools and hospital facilities. Another 10 million marks (\$6.4 million) will pay for business start-up help for qualified workers returning from abroad, and 56.3 million marks (\$4.1 million) will go to train young people coming from refugee camps or prisons, or returning from abroad. The allocation takes Germany's bilateral assistance to the Palestinians to 78.2 million marks (\$50.4 million) in 1994. It has also committed 76 million marks (\$49 million) to European Union measures to support the Middle East peace process.

Jerusalem street to be named after massacre man

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The town hall has decided to name a street in Jerusalem after a man who planned the attack on Deir Yassin village where more than 150 Palestinians were massacred in April 1948. The Jerusalem weekly Koai Ha'ir said Friday that late Yehoshua Goldschmidt, a commander of Jewish irregulars, would have a street named after him. Goldschmidt was in charge of operations of the underground Irgun and had come up with the plan to attack the village at the western entrance to the Holy City. He did not personally take part and was killed two months later in fighting with the Jordanian army. The Deir Yassin attack, carried out by Irgun and Stern, another Jewish group, turned into a massacre and triggered a massive exodus of Palestinians from the Jerusalem region.

Kohl invites Weizman to commemorations

HAMBURG (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has invited Israel's president to Germany to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ending of World War II next May, according to Der Spiegel magazine. Mr. Kohl invited Ezer Weizman on a state visit to Germany through "confidence channels," the weekly said. The Israeli president had "given his agreement in principle" but the Israeli have still not made the invitation public, it said. It said the Chancellor plans to mark the anniversary, May 8, with a "reconciliation party" for Germans and their wartime enemies. Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Thursday a final decision on the kind of celebrations or participants would not be taken for some weeks. "It goes without saying that we will celebrate the end of the war and freedom from national-socialism at the same time that we will honour the memory of the dead," Mr. Vogel said.

Palestinian post services start on Sunday

GAZA (R) — The Palestinian Authority intends to inaugurate its independent postal services between the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho and the world from Jan. 1, a communications official said on Saturday. Ahmad Skaik, director general of the authority's communications department, said PNA Chairman Yasser Arafat will stamp the first letter at a ceremony in Gaza City on Sunday. The Palestinian Authority, which took charge of most of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May, has so far been using the Israeli postal service. Mr. Skaik said Palestinian stamps have already been prepared and are available for public use in every post office in the self-rule areas.

Congo names first ambassador to Israel

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — Congolese former technical training minister Pierre-Michel Guimbi has been named Brazzaville's first ambassador to Israel. Radio Congo announced Saturday. Congo and Israel restored diplomatic ties in 1991 after an 18-year rift sparked by the 1973 Israeli-Arab war. In July 1991, the two countries signed a cooperation protocol, which was followed up by a military agreement in December 1993. Under the latter, the Israeli government authorised the Levdan company to train the security guards of Congolese President Pascal Lissouba, as well as an elite police unit.

Protest held against Kurdish fighting in Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Several demonstrations have been held in northern Iraq against the latest clashes between rival Kurdish factions in the region, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday. The agency, quoting Kurdish witnesses, said major rallies were staged in the towns of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Demonstrators called for the United Nations to intervene to stop the fighting. Fierce clashes erupted last week between Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and an alliance of forces loyal to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Kurdistan's Hezbollah. Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control, with the backing of a U.S.-led multinational coalition and in defiance of Baghdad, since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

Perry to travel to Mideast, Asia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry will travel to the Middle East and Asia in January, the Pentagon announced Friday. The trip scheduled for Jan. 6-14 will take Mr. Perry to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and India, a statement said. The secretary will meet with high-level officials in order to strengthen military relationships with those countries, according to the department. Israel and Egypt are the top recipients of U.S. aid, with \$3 billion and \$2.2 billion a year respectively — \$1.8 billion and \$1.3 billion of those sums for military purposes.

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PROGRAMME TWO

17/09 ... A Year in the Life

18/09 ... Varieties

19/09 ... News in French

19/10 ... Ushma

20/09 ... Silent Night — HollyNight

20/09 ... Quantum Leap

21/10 ... The Last Days

22/09 ... News in English

Feature film: "The Little Match Girl"

23/09 ... The Upper Hand

Angkor Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 620543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772526.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684155.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 659532.

Church of Nazarene Tel. 573691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

bakeries, sandwich shops, petrol stations, hotels owe a large part of their existence to hunters," said Mr. Offisch.

The Bekaa plain is a favourite haunt for hunters who gather before dawn for an early breakfast at one of the eateries along the main Beirut-to-Damascus before setting off.

"Restaurants can't keep up with orders for sandwiches and sausages (a sweet milky pudding) and petrol stations pump more gas during the hunting season than any other time in the year," said Elie Ruphayel, a merchant from nearby Zahle.

But he and fellow environmentalist Shadi Hamadach said the ban was necessary to allow some birds to get re-established.

Lebanese hunters up in arms over new ban

CHTAURA, Lebanon (AFP) — Lebanese hunters are up in arms at a three-year government ban on hunting aimed at protecting the declining bird population which comes into effect on New Year's Day.

"Over 10 million migratory birds are being shot each year over Lebanon," said Assad Serhal of the Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources (SPNL), a non-government organisation.

But owners of sporting goods shops and cartridge factories have denounced the ban which comes into force on Sunday as an attack on civil liberties.

Regent condoles Turkish leaders, people over tragic air accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent letters of condolences to President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller of Turkey over the crash of a Turkish Airlines plane Thursday, a Royal Court statement said.

The Regent wrote to Mr. Demirel saying, "It was

with shock and sadness that we received news of the tragic accident that befell the Turkish Airlines Boeing 737. On behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, the government and the people of Jordan, please accept our sincerest condolences on the grievous loss of lives." In a similar message to Ms. Ciller, the

Crown Prince said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time."

The Boeing 737-400 crashed into a mountain as it attempted a landing in a snowstorm at Van airport. As of Saturday, 56 of the 69 passengers on board were reported dead (see story page 12).



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh water department branch in Qweismeh, Israeidat Saturday inaugurates the new south of Amman (Petra photo)

Irsheidat inaugurates new water department in Qweismeh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Israeidat Saturday inaugurated a new water department at Qweismeh south of Amman.

The new water department would cover an area of 700 square kilometres, extending from Muwaqqar and Sahab in the south to Naoum and Marj Al Hamam in the north. The department will serve an estimated 220,000 inhabitants.

Dr. Israeidat said that the ministry plans to set up similar departments in northern and western Amman districts serving the local population of Amman as well as the Baidar Wadi Al Seer district.

The minister said that a JD 55.6 million plan is underway for the substitution of the old and worn-out water networks in the Kingdom, in hopes that the replacement would re-

duce water wastage that results from leaking pipes.

According to the minister, the substitution of old networks has already started in Irbid, Ramtha, Zarqa, Salt and Mafrag. Last week, Dr. Israeidat said that the ministry has allocated JD 2 million in its 1995 budget to handle water leakage in the Kingdom.

Current networks currently lose 53 per cent of the total amount of water in the greater Amman area alone due to leakage; the new networks would reduce the amount of lost water to 10 per cent, the minister said. He noted that the work on the Amman network is expected to commence by the start of 1995.

Areas to be included in the first phase of the Amman plan include Jebal Luweidah, Jebal Hussein, Jebel Hashimi, Ashrafiyah, Marka.

Jordan to join convention to prevent sea pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has decided to join the convention for the prevention of sea pollution, in accordance with a decision taken Saturday by the Council of Ministers. The convention was endorsed by the United Nations in 1983.

Under the terms of the convention each member country trains cadres to protect marine environments and pledges to provide specific equipment to deal with the oil spills in sea waters.

He also encourages scientific research programmes dealing with the clean-up and disposal of oil spills.

Under the terms of the convention each member nation also provides suitable seaport installations to clean spills.

Under Jordanian and international laws, vessels are not allowed to dump any kind of waste at the Aqaba port at any time.

The Council of Ministers

which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali also announced that Jordan will take part in the 33rd supervisory council meeting for the Palestine refugees, due to convene in Cairo by the middle of January. The meeting, which is expected to last one week, is sponsored by the Arab League and is expected to discuss services for the Palestinian refugees and the annual budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

During an ordinary session, the Council of Ministers decided to form a Jordanian delegation led by the head of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Ahmad Jweibet to travel to Malaysia during the first week of January to exchange documents ratifying an air transport agreement between Malaysia and Jordan.

An initial agreement on

the air transport between the two countries was reached during a recent visit to Jordan by the Malaysian prime minister.

The Cabinet gave consent for Jordan to attend a regional conference of national committees involved in electric power generation. The meeting, which is due to be held in Cairo between Jan. 20-25 is expected to be attended by a team from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) which will submit four working papers.

The Cairo meeting should pave the ground for the first international conference on electric power generation to be held in Paris within the coming year.

The Council of Ministers approved the secondment of Dr. Janet Mirza, director of the Blood Bank, to serve with the World Health Organization (WHO) for one month in Pakistan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

★ Bani Hamida Christmas Display with a variety of small gift items at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Rainbow Street.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Mahmoud Masa of the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Leila Kawash at

the Royal Cultural Centre.

- ★ Exhibition of works by Mahmud Obaidi at Darat Al Funnah. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fahrinissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tawfiq Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shammout Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Latif Al Khateeb and Mazy Khalessi at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition at Mnas Saudi's Studio, Abdoun Village — Tel.: 829700 until Dec. 31st, 1994.

Government panel finds food additive testing valid

Islamic council questions implementation of food regulations

By Samir Barhoun

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — According to a government committee, all additives to bread, potato chips, cakes, pastries and other foodstuffs undergo strict tests to ensure that they conform to Jordanian and international standards and specifications.

The committee, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Health and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and set up to investigate a statement issued Oct. 8 by the Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan, emphasised that no substances can be added to foodstuffs without being tested by the concerned authorities to make sure they conform to internationally-recognised standards and specifications and to prove they are fit for human consumption.

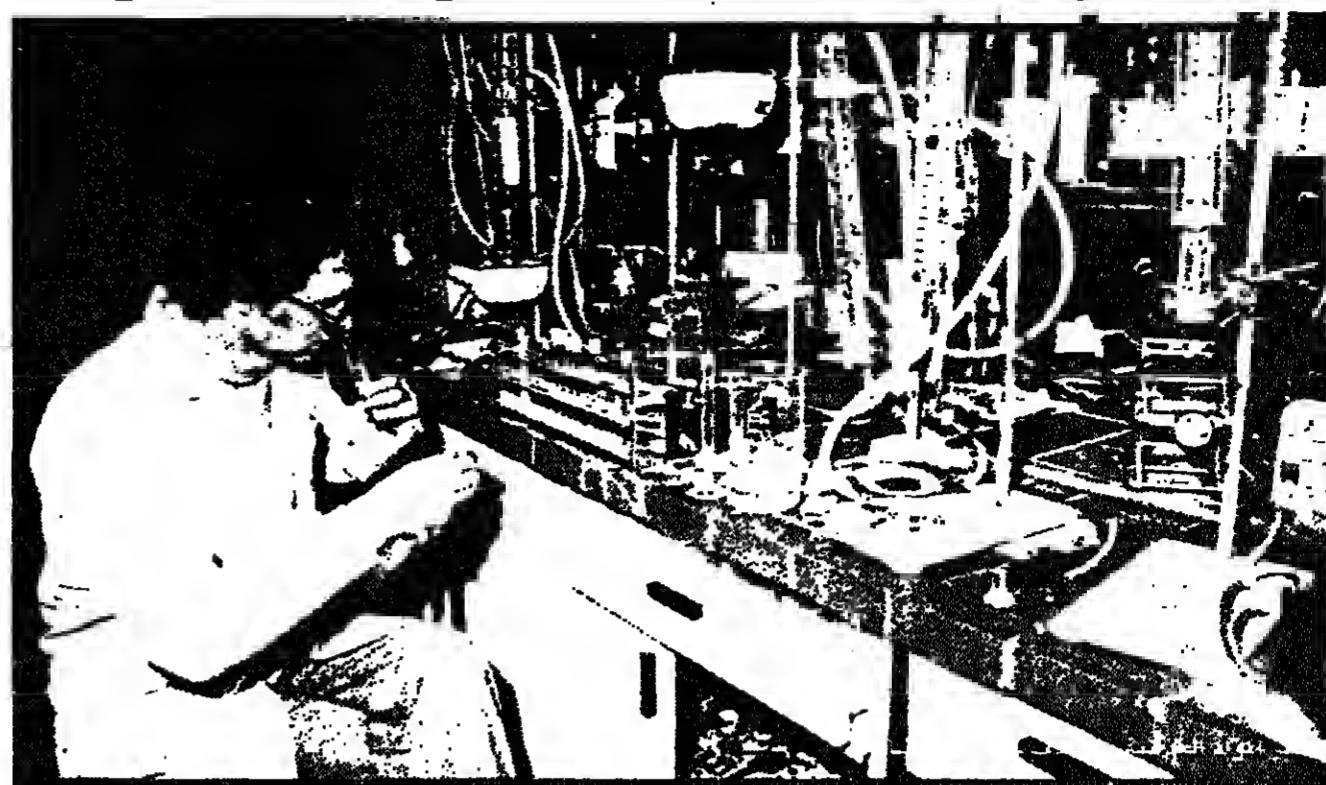
The council in October issued a statement in which it said dyes and other substances were being added to food stuffs beyond allowed standards to make them tempting to consumers.

In addition, the council said farmers were also using chemical materials, including pesticides and hormones, which might cause serious diseases, especially to children.

The government committee denied these charges in a reply sent to the council. It said that the Ministry of Agriculture also plays a major role in testing and analysing samples of locally-produced and imported agricultural produce at its pesticides laboratory.

In case of any violations, the statement said, "the ministry takes the necessary measures to protect the health of citizens."

Director of the RSS's Chemical Industries Department Saleh Suradi said all additives to food stuffs



A food testing laboratory at the Royal Scientific Society (file photo)

are usually tested by all concerned parties and should conform to specifications set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

He said the RSS conducts only part of the work carried out by the ministries of agriculture and health in that regard, underlining that each has its own role to play.

"We are only an advisory party testing samples sent to us by the concerned ministries and the Customs Department," Dr. Suradi told the Jordan Times.

Abdul Latif Suheili, secretary general of the council which includes 101 Islamic societies and centres around the Kingdom, said the council was prompted to issue its statement in October following many complaints by citizens.

Dr. Suheili said the committee's reply, received by

mail Saturday, was unrealistic. "They say they have specifications and standards, but the question is are these specifications and standards followed on the ground?" he asked.

He said the council, an independent body set up in 1974, was not satisfied with the committee's reply and stressed that he will raise the issue again with the concerned authorities.

Despite the affirmations by the authorities that standards are strictly observed by bakeries, confectionaries and foodstuff plants, people still complain of the chemical substances they taste in bread, meat and more importantly potato chips which are consumed by children in large quantities, Dr. Suheili charged.

He said he feared that such substances added to foodstuffs, including those added to bread to make it

look and taste better, might be causing cancer.

"Five years ago, we stirred the same issue, and a major campaign was taken by the government to investigate it. Now we intend to do the same," said Dr. Suheili.

Meanwhile,

Akhbar Al

Usbou'

reported that the Health

Department in Zarqa has

over the past seven weeks

shut down five unlicensed

factories that were produc-

ing candy.

No official was available at the Ministry of Health and the Zarqa Health Department Saturday afternoon for comment, although sources at the Zarqa department confirmed the story.

Akhbar Al Usbou'

said the unlicensed factories

were using banned colour-

ing materials, adding that

the owners of the factories

were referred to court. It quoted health ministry officials as saying that the closure of the unlicensed factories does not mean that licensed ones do not violate specifications. Nevertheless, the sources told the weekly that the licensed factories commit fewer violations.

The sources told the weekly that several unlicensed food processing factories operating in various parts of the Kingdom were recently shut down without the issuance of any public announcement to preserve the reputation of national industries.

The sources said the products of these plants are usually marketed in "popular or remote areas."

An official source at the ministry said an average of one unlicensed factory is shut down by the ministry every month.

Still no clues to factory explosion

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Investigations were under way Saturday to determine the cause of an oven explosion in a smelting factory near Marka Airport that caused the death of two people and injury to four others, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) sources said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Saturday that a committee has been formed to investigate what caused the industrial oven to explode late Thursday night.

"We still have no idea of what might have caused the oven to explode, but we took samples from it for examination," the official said.

Two employees standing near the oven were killed instantly from the blast that rocked the factory, and four others were listed in fair condition, he added.

He said the factory was not damaged because the oven was placed in an insulated room to protect the rest of the building in case

of an explosion.

All six casualties were taken to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, said the official. The four employees who sustained minor burns from the explosion were listed in good to fair condition.

According to the official, several circumstances may have caused the blast.

"It is possible that an increase in temperatures might have caused the explosion, or that gas collected in a tight area and caused an increase in pressure," he said.

As of Saturday evening, police had still not determined the cause of the explosion.

Meanwhile, the CDD responded to 657 emergencies last week in which 31 persons were killed.

Captain Farid Sharieh said that most of the casualties reported were the result of suffocation or burns caused by careless use of kerosene or gas heaters.

Capt. Sharieh said that of the 31 reported deaths, six were suffocation and burn-related accidents.

Another year folds

(Continued from page 7)

13 — Islamic summit opens in Morocco, Jordan demands a resolution on Jerusalem that supports its custodianship of holy Muslim sites in the city.

17 — OIC resolution was void of any mention of Jordan's role.

18 — Government raises pension of military, civil retirees.

21 — Commission presents high-incentive draft law to encourage investments.

22 — Mutif of Saudi Arabia Abdul Aziz Ben Baz says peace with Israel is possible.

21 — State Security Court sentences 11 Muslim fundamentalists to death on terror charges including bomb attacks on cinemas.

23 — Prince Ali Ben Al

Hussein celebrates his 19th birthday.

— Four Algerian gunmen

seize French airliner with 283 on board

26 — Lower House adopts

draft budget with 52-22 vote

— Israeli parliament

adopts a law aimed at preventing official PLO activities

in Jerusalem

27 — 1994 census shows that 4,095,579 people live in Kingdom

— Eleven opposition

groups accuse government of

violating freedoms

— King heads for Austria

for check-ups on ear problem

— Four priests killed in

Algeria as France probes hijack

— Syrian, Egyptian and

Saudi leaders hold mini-

summit in Egypt.

The Dihbin Woods in the Jerash district (file photo)

Groups prepare for Arbor Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will celebrate Arbor Day on Jan. 15, with tree-planting ceremonies throughout the country.

Issa Shahin, member of the administrative board of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), said in a statement Saturday that the society, in collaboration with other groups, is preparing for these celebrations as part of the national effort to green the Kingdom by the year 2000.

Mousa Ahabadi, head of the Ministry of Agriculture's Afforestation Department, told the Jordan Times Saturday that the main celebration this year would be held at Wadi Araha, where Jordan and Israel signed a peace

treaty on Oct. 26, 1994.

He said in that celebration alone at least 15,000 saplings of forest trees will be planted to form the nucleus of the proposed peace park in Wadi Araha just north of Aqaba.

The Ministry of Agriculture's 12 nurseries this year produced seven million forest

World News

We have defeated 'forces of evil' — Rwanda leader

KIGALI (Agence) — Rwanda's President Pasteur Bizimungu said his compatriots had defeated the "forces of evil" in a message to close a year that saw more than 500,000 people killed in a genocidal civil war.

"The year 1994 was a year of distress, anguish and pain for Rwandans," Mr. Bizimungu said, according to Radio Rwanda Saturday. "Rwanda was nevertheless once reputed to be a country where milk and honey flowed."

"But we must congratulate ourselves on the fact that we have been able to defeat the forces of evil," the president added in an address Friday to members of the coalition government and the diplomatic

corps.

Mr. Bizimungu and his government colleagues planned to spend New Year's Eve with orphans and unaccompanied children in different parts of the central African country, where almost 150,000 youngsters are without families, according to official estimates.

The president, a member of the Hutu majority ethnic group, was installed after rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized control of the capital Kigali in July, following the three months of slaughter.

The new authorities have blamed Hutu extremists and former government troops for unleashing the genocide of minority Tutsis after for-

mer President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a suspected rocket attack on his plane in April.

The U.N. Security Council has moved to set up a war crimes tribunal for Rwanda.

Hutu extremist militiamen killed 10 villagers who had refused to follow them into exile in Tanzania in an attack in southeastern Rwanda, state-run Rwandan Radio said.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, on Friday night quoted reports from the southeastern town of Kibungo saying nine members of the ousted former government's Interhamwe militia attacked people in Kigarama village near Akagera Park,

which borders on Tanzania.

It said 10 people including women and children were killed and three others were seriously wounded in two separate attacks after villagers refused to follow them into northwest Tanzania.

Hutu militiamen based in border areas and refugee camps are intimidating refugees against returning home in a campaign to deprive the government in the capital of Kigali of any Hutus to govern.

More than one million refugees, virtually all Hutus, remain outside Rwanda in camps in Tanzania, Zaire and Burundi despite a campaign by the government and aid agencies to help them return.

U.S. helicopter pilot arrives home in Florida

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Florida (R) — U.S. army helicopter pilot Bobby Hall came home to Florida Friday night after being held for nearly two weeks by North Korea.

"It's great to be back home. I'm looking forward to some family time," Officer Hall, his voice breaking with emotion, said after arriving at MacDill Air Force Base near Tampa, Florida.

The chief warrant officer landed at MacDill around 11:15 p.m. (0415 GMT Saturday) and got off the plane a few minutes later. After an emotional reunion with family members, he made a brief statement.

He was expected to continue on to his hometown of Brooksville, about 40 miles (70 km) north of Tampa, ending a journey that began earlier Friday in Seoul, South Korea.

In his statement, Officer Hall expressed condolences to the family of fellow pilot Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, who was killed in the Dec. 17 crash of their helicopter in Communist North Korea.

"...I really don't know how we wound up across the DMZ," Officer Hall said at MacDill, referring to the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea. He said the first indication he had that anything was wrong was an explosion outside the aircraft.

He said he had been very well treated during his 12 days of captivity, adding that the North Koreans "we're very concerned about my well-being."

North Korea said the helicopter was on a spy mission, but the United States said the aircraft was on a routine mission and had accidentally strayed into North Korean airspace before going down.

Officer Hall thanked his family and the people of Brooksville for their support, saying, "you are really a bunch of great people."

The United States and North Korea failed to agree on a format for future talks to prevent a repeat of the recent downing of the U.S. helicopter in North Korea, the top State Department East Asia



Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall (front) surrounded by family members makes a brief statement after his arrival at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Officer Hall was held captive for 13 days in North Korea after his helicopter crashed during a training mission (AFP photo)

expert said Friday.

The two countries left the question vague in an agreement which led to the release of Officer Hall, said Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

"Neither side would agree to the other's position, so we resorted to creative ambiguity," Mr. Lord said in a telephone interview. "We would have preferred a more precise formulation but it was not possible to agree on that."

Mr. Lord also said that with Officer Hall now released, the United States planned to go ahead on schedule with a delivery of heavy oil to North Korea under an October agreement that froze Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

In an understanding with Pyongyang concerning terms for the release of Officer Hall whose helicopter was downed on Dec. 17 just inside North Korea, the United States agreed to "contacts in an appropriate forum" to prevent such incidents in future.

Mr. Lord said the United States insisted this should be within the Military Armistice Commission (MAC), which oversees the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, but North Korea was demanding purely bilateral contacts.

At issue is North Korea's desire to establish links with the United States that bypass South Korea. At the MAC, North Korean officers nominally meet the United Nations Command which includes South Korean as well as U.S. officers.

Mr. Lord said no specific meetings had been scheduled to clear up the dispute. "We would like to meet at some stage, but how soon will depend on North Korean reasonableness," he said.

He made clear that — as in the past — such meetings need not always include South Korean representatives, but that U.S. officers would be taking part "using the U.N. bat." MAC meetings take place at Panmunjom on the North-South border.

U.S. leaders have maintained that no concessions were made to North Korea over Officer Hall's release, negotiated in Pyongyang by Mr. Lord's deputy Thomas Hubbard. In the deal, the United States expressed "sincere regret" over the helicopter incident.

Mr. Lord said the nuclear agreement, under which Pyongyang halted nuclear activities in return for oil supplies and the eventual provision of modern nuclear reactors whose fuel cannot be diverted to make weapons, was now back on course.

He said this included the first shipment of oil supplies, due to be delivered to North Korea by Jan. 21.

"That is our plan now, unless something comes up that we don't expect," Mr. Lord said.

"The atmosphere would have been seriously prejudiced if (Hall's detention) had gone on much longer," he said. "But the issue was solved, I think, before the atmosphere soured."

Washington never openly threatened to bold back the delivery, but some members of Congress warned that they would seek to block it if Officer Hall was not freed.

The U.S. official also said he believed North Korea had "de facto" accepted the U.S. argument that the helicopter intrusion was due to a navigational error.

He said this was suggested both by the decision to release Officer Hall and by the fact that no explicit admission of espionage was contained in a "confession" attributed to the U.S. pilot that was published Wednesday by North Korean media.

While the North Koreans had not openly endorsed the U.S. explanation, "I think they are fairly convinced it was an accident," Mr. Lord said.

Seoul wary about U.S.- North Korea contacts

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, keeping a wary eye on warming ties between the United States and North Korea, said Saturday it would stop Pyongyang's bid to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the North had ruled out South Korea's involvement in negotiations on the release of U.S. army pilot Bobby Hall, whose helicopter went down just north of the tense border bisecting the Koreas.

"(South) Korea and the United States will mobilise all means to stave off North Korea's intention to damage Seoul-Washington relations and to draw the United States into political negotiations with Pyongyang," he said.

He said the Seoul government had asked Washington not to be involved in the issue of repatriating North Korean prisoners of war held in the South.

In announcing Officer Hall's release from 13 days of captivity Friday, North Korea radio said the United States agreed to "our demand to give necessary cooperation so that unaccounted prisoners of war (North Korean soldiers held by South Korea) can be returned home quickly."

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Hubbard, who negotiated Officer Hall's release, told a news conference in Seoul Friday that the issue of POWs was a matter to be discussed between the two Koreas.

Mr. Kim's call came as relations between the North and the affluent South are at a low, marked by bitter verbal broadsides from Pyongyang against Mr. Kim, the South's first non-military backed president in three decades.

President Bill Clinton said the United States had given up nothing in the agreement that secured Officer Hall's release.

He rejected a suggestion that the deal meant South Korea would be cut out of future U.S. contacts with the North, which Seoul strongly resists.

"The terms of the agreement are clear from their own words. We were faithful to all of our commitments to our allies and to our commitments to our own policies," Mr. Clinton said.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Sunday called in a New Year message for an end to mistrust and confrontation between North and South Korea to usher in an era of "reconciliation and cooperation."

This tragic mistrust and confrontation between our compatriots must now be ended," Mr. Kim said in his address, adding that 1995 marked 50 years of division of the Korean peninsula.

"We have yet to resolve this tragedy," Mr. Kim said. "In step with global historical trends, we must usher in an era of North-South reconciliation and cooperation."

Truce hopes rise; Sarajevo siege clears 1,000 days

SARAJEVO (R) — United Nations representatives expressed optimism that the Bosnian government and rebel Serbs would sign a four-month ceasefire Saturday — the 1,000th day of Sarajevo's bitter siege.

The U.N. military commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, had talks with Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic, and U.N. sources said afterwards a new form of words for an accord to cease hostilities in Bosnia had been worked out.

It was sent to the Bosnian Serbs at their headquarters at Pale, near the Bosnian capital, and if they agreed to the changes, the pact could then be signed, the sources said.

This would be done in two stages — first in Sarajevo, then in Pale, they added.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi arrived in Sarajevo saying he could not specify exactly when the accord would be signed but added: "I am optimistic."

As he went into talks with Mr. Ganic, Gen. Rose told Reuters the Muslim-led Bosnian government still had difficulties with one or two points but said these were just questions of wording.

Asked if the accord could be signed Saturday as predicted, Gen. Rose said: "I hope so. I still think there is a very good chance we will sign an agreement today."

Commenting on the Bosnian government's reservations about the agreement, which the Serbs have already said they will sign, Gen. Rose said: "There are one or two points — what I would call wordsmithing."

The Bosnian government wants the accord to contain tougher language on the de-militarisation of Sarajevo. It also wants an end to fighting around the Bihać enclave in northeastern Bosnia.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic was quoted as saying he wanted a truce in Bihać and the opening of so-called "blue routes" which would allow supplies to be brought into the Serb besieged city.

"Without a complete ceasefire in Bihać and the opening of the blue routes there will be no cessation of hostilities agreement," Mr. Silajdzic told the Bosnian BH Press news agency.

State controlled Bosnian Radio said the Bosnian Serbs used small arms and anti-aircraft cannon to fire on Bosnian lines around Bihać Saturday, but there was no immediate independent confirmation of the report.

The proposed four-month ceasefire arose from a peace mission to Bosnia earlier in December by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. It is intended to pave the way for negotiations on a settlement of Bosnia's 33-month-old war.

As the Serb siege of Sarajevo entered its 1,000th day Saturday, Mr. Silajdzic launched a scathing attack on

funds to revive an economy shattered by war with Krajina Serbs and has been repeatedly cautioned that a military adventure against them would dry up the taps of international monetary institutions.

The Krajina Serbs rebelled against Croatia's 1991 secession from Serbian-led federal Yugoslavia. A firm ceasefire has been in place since March and the two sides signed an accord on Dec. 2 to re-establish economic and communications ties.

Croatia regards the agreement as a precursor to the Krajina enclave's political reintegration due to be negotiated in 1995. But the Krajina Serbs insist on a separate state linked in some way to Yugoslavia.

Gen. Bobetko said the place where to strike.

"In 1992 we could not have done it because we did not have the means," he told a year-end news conference.

"Events have shown, however, that Croatia has now created (a) national military force able to begin recovering the lost territories," the elderly commander said.

But Gen. Bobetko conceded any recapture of Serb-held areas in far eastern Croatia bordering Serbia could provoke a new, wider war with the Yugoslav army.

"Baranja (in eastern Croatia) has been captured, its demographic structure changed and we have to be prepared for such a difficult task of liberating Baranja which may lead into conflict with Serbia," he said. "But if no other course of action is left for Croatia, it will have to take it."

Gen. Bobetko said the Krajina Serbs had no independence in negotiations with Zagreb, describing their leader Milan Martic as a mere executor of the Serbian-Yugoslav government.

Croatia's army had grown from a ragtag militia in 1991 to a respectable force ready to cope with the Krajina Serbs and their armour, the rump Yugoslav army.

"It is up to us now to determine goals and the targets, as well as (the) time

Zagreb desperately needs

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Enter '95

BY ANY serious standard, 1994 will go down in the history of the Kingdom as the year that set into motion the process of redefining a major concern of Jordanian foreign policy since the creation of the Kingdom. Antagonism in relations with Israel has been replaced by a mutual willingness to build peace; a lasting one that would be predicated on Israel's recognition of Jordanian rights that were for long usurped.

The year started with clouds of uncertainty that blurred vision of the future. The peace process was stagnating, the democratic process at points looked abandoned and little signs of Arab reconciliation were visible. But 1994 ended with a peace treaty and a clear commitment to revitalise the democratic process. These are the positive elements. But the negatives include unhealthy Arab relations and an economy that is showing few signs of improvement as far as living standards and the cost of living are concerned. And here lie the challenges of 1995.

The signing of the peace treaty was a significant achievement. But its real implications for the Kingdom will be determined by how we face up to the requirements of the new era. Promises that the peace treaty by itself will bring economic prosperity and golden opportunities will not be enough. Only by equipping the Kingdom's institutions and people with the right tools to seize the new opportunities will any real peace dividend be won. Modernising the economy is a promise that the government has made; but little has been done to realise it so far. Jordan cannot afford wasting any more time. The process of reform should start and start immediately.

But only in a democracy can people be confident to unleash their potential for bringing about prosperity to their homes and country. There is no point in denying that democracy took a beating at times during 1994. But it is a process that has its ups and downs, and we are confident of the way we have chosen for ourselves. It is the choice of building, over time, a healthy, stable and prosperous Jordan. A change in government is promised for this year, most probably in the first week of January. So there will be a change in policies and emphasis. A faster move towards liberalisation and democratisation should be at the centre of this change.

While the challenge of consolidating democracy is almost a pure Jordanian decision and process, the saddening situation in Arab ties is an ordeal for which the Kingdom cannot be blamed. Jordan has repeatedly reached out to its Arab brethren. Many of them shunned the overtures. Accordingly, the Arab Nation remains bogged down in the darkness of an abyss that is suffocating its potential for development and progress.

Despite the rhetoric of many a politician, little is being done to put Arab ties on track. The Arab order could not have left last year on a sadder note.

1994 was the year of peace. On that front, Jordan's performance was breathtaking. But 1995 will offer the challenge of making the best out of the new era. Hence the enormity of the amount of work required. His Majesty King Hussein spoke of the need for profound change to cope with the changing times. That change, we trust, will have to be positive and productive.

Happy New Year.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra's daily Saturday attacked the mini-summit held in Alexandria between the heads of state of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria as a forum were the three countries displayed their enmity towards Iraq and Jordan. The three states were careful to claim that their meeting was intended as a means of serving common Arab action but in fact this was far from the truth. As far as Egypt, it is angered over the fact that Arab states, including Jordan, have started contacts directly with Washington and Tel Aviv without consulting with Cairo; for Syria it believes that the Palestinians and Jordan have weakened Damascus's negotiating position with Israel by concluding separate deals with the Jewish state while Saudi Arabia is concerned with its internal issues and its problems with Qatar and Oman which are following independent policies. Saudi Arabia is also concerned over the deficits in its budgets, said Tareq Masa'weh. The writer said that Saudi Arabia is also afraid that Cairo or Damascus could suddenly change their position vis-a-vis Iraq in reaction to the uneasy developments in the region and found that it had to join the summit meeting to reassess its own stand, said the writer.

MOHAMMAD DAOUD, a writer in Al Dastour, urged the concerned authorities to double their efforts to ensure the success of the family planning system in Jordan. Expressing delight over the fact that many Jordanians have become aware of the need to stem the unusual growth in population, the writer said that family planning, which entails birth spacing, was bound to be beneficial for the mothers' health.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fawak

No radical economic changes expected from peace treaty

IF WE examine the peace treaty with Israel and try to analyse the local, regional and international state of affairs, we should be able to conclude that the economic impact of peace will be minimal, and that economic life in Jordan will continue, more or less, at the same level of activity. In other words, peace is not expected to alter the path of the Jordanian economy in any radical way. The treaty was not meant for economic results and should not be judged against this criteria.

It is true that the two sectors of tourism and transport will benefit. Investment climate may improve following peace and the final elimination of threat, but that is about all. There are no reasons for other sectors to expect a rise or fall of activity due to peace.

On the trade level, the boycott of Israel is removed, but the boycott of Jordan remains in place. So far no access to the West Bank market is allowed. It is still an Israeli captured market. Even the Israeli market has its own non-tariff restrictions and specifications that make it almost closed to many Jordanian industries. The Israeli concession to allow Jordan to export \$30 million worth of products to the West Bank before Dec. 31, 1994 expired without implementation.

Trade with Israel may grow and become important with time. It can make 10 per cent of Jordanian imports and exports, which will cause a one time economic growth in GDP of around two per cent, but with Israeli and Jordanian import taxes in place, Israel will simply be another foreign country in the region like Cyprus and Turkey. The addition of Israel to the rest of the world will

not change the picture from a Jordanian point of view. As far as the flow of foreign aid, soft loans and foreign investments are concerned, we should not expect much. Aid, if any, will be too little and too slow to make a difference or to allow the man in the street to feel the benefits of peace in the form of lower unemployment and higher standards of living.

Some pessimists are scared of a so-called Israeli investment invasion of Jordan. They can rest assured that, except for investment in tourism, no Israeli capital will be encouraged to come to Jordan, which is another minus. Israeli investors made it clear in Casablanca that an annual return lower than 20 per cent will not attract them.

The reforms and measures recommended to the government by international experts in response to peace are reforms and measures that should be undertaken any way to improve the efficiency of the economy and improve the climate of investment. Not one measure is only applicable to peace.

In this respect, we should remember that lifting the United Nations sanctions against Iraq will have more favourable impact on Jordan's exports and growth than lifting the barriers with Israel, which we are still divided on whether it is good or bad to the Jordanian economy.

What Jordanian businesses should do to get ready for the economics of peace? The answer is: All the things they should be doing anyhow. They should upgrade their products, comply with international specifications, keep the cost down and look for new opportunities.

M. KAHIL



Paper alliances for Israel's 1996 elections

By Peretz Kidron

YITZHAK RABIN's visit to Washington in November mainly comprised high-level strategic talks with U.S. leaders. But his stay in the U.S. capital two weeks after the mid-term elections also afforded him a glimpse of a Democratic president hamstrung by a Republican Congress — possibly a foretaste of what may lie in store for him after the Israeli elections scheduled for 1996, when a new law provides for direct election of the prime minister.

Traditionally, that post has gone to the party leader who could muster a Knesset majority, automatically ensuring the prime minister control of the legislature. But with no party ever winning an outright majority, the required coalition-building has elevated tiny splinter factions into power brokers, enabling them to wring outrageous concessions from the major parties; discontent with the attendant political instability prompted the constitutional reform. Framed to grant the prime minister quasi-presidential status, the direct-election law now holds out intriguing potential for deadlock of the kind that has often plagued Washington, with the executive under one party and the legislature dominated by its adversaries.

While recent months have eroded Mr. Rabin's public support, he still leads his main rival, Likud leader Bibi' Netanyahu. But polls now show Mr. Rabin's Labour Party running neck-and-neck with Likud; when counting each party's respective allies — the Meretz doves and the Arab lists that usually vote with Labour, against Likud's "national camp" of ultra-nationalists and the religious factions — the surveys predict a narrow but decisive majority for the latter.

Much can happen in the intervening 20 months before polling day. But should present trends hold, Mr. Rabin could find himself elected prime minister and confronting a Knesset with a "national camp" majority. Such an outcome would leave him with no choice but to invite Likud into his cabinet. As illustrated by the Labour-Likud coalition of the 1970s, "national unity" is a sure-fire recipe for political paralysis. Such a coalition would hardly

promote peace efforts with Israel's Arab neighbours; Likud ministers might allow limited concessions towards Syria, but they would certainly veto further implementation of the Oslo accords, setting Israeli-Palestinian relations back to a violent collision course.

Such gloomy forecasts assume that present trends persist till 1996 — a risky prediction in Israel's ever volatile political climate. Apart from the vagaries of the peace process, and the swell of anti-Arab fury that sweeps Israel after terrorist acts like the recent Tel Aviv bus-bombing, opinion is swayed by any number of factors, from commonplace concerns over inflation and housing, to public confidence in the probity of political leaders (the Likud's 1992 downfall was due as much to corruption scandals as to any broad shift in public views on major issues of war and peace).

The coming elections may hinge on the mundane matter of mortgage payments. In 1996 the five-year period of grace on mortgages for homes many Russian immigrants bought in the early '90s will end. As they are landed with sizeable monthly payments, the newcomers — many in poorly paid jobs — could face grave financial difficulties just as the election campaign gets under way. Such a downturn could spur the immigrants — who mostly voted Labour in 1992 — to punish the government by switching their support elsewhere. Even a minor shift among "the Russians" — over 10 per cent of the electorate — could tilt the balance.

Equally significant for the election outcome are potential changes in existing political alignments, or the emergence of new coalitions cutting across present party lines. There are indications of behind-the-scenes activity as ambitious political strategists lay plans for startling new alliances.

One possibility being discussed is a "Moroccan list" to appeal to the half-million strong North African community, among the most underprivileged segments of the Jewish population. The Orthodox Shas Party,

drawing most of its votes from "Moroccans," has wavered between government and opposition, reflecting differences between dovish leaders and a more right-leaning constituency. The party's able young leader, Aryeh Deri, is currently on trial on corruption charges; but if he avoids conviction he might seek to restore his personal and political fortunes by allying himself with such figures as former Foreign Minister David Levy, likewise of Moroccan origin. A leading member of Likud, Mr. Levy inclines to its more moderate wing, and sharp personal and political differences with party leader Mr. Netanyahu have given rise to rumours that he plans to defect.

Another possible "Moroccan" component is a group of second-rank Labour MKs associated with the former leadership of the Histadrut unions overthrown in April's elections. Stripped of their power base, and vocally unhappy with the social and economic policies of Mr. Rabin's "cabinet of the rich," some "Labour Moroccans" might be tempted to throw in their lot with Mr. Deri and Mr. Levy. The former is a cautious supporter of the Oslo accords, which Mr. Levy has denounced; but their differences are not insurmountable, and their alliance, spanning the narrow gap between Labour hardliners and Likud moderates, could exercise great popular appeal at the centre of the political spectrum. Rumours of secret contacts among the "Moroccans" have been denied by all concerned, who insist they will have no part in an "ethnic" slate; but the potential exists, and it will be surprising if the initiative is not pursued.

A further alliance rumoured to be in the works is a so-called "yuppie slate," likewise seeking to lure voters from both major parties. While Israelis tend to rigidify in their political loyalties, recent years have seen the success of several multi-party slates. The first model was Ronny Milo's victorious campaign for mayor of Tel Aviv. Mr. Milo, another Likud moderate, continued to forge a broad coalition that even extended to left-leaning people from Meretz, who were won over when Mr. Milo broke ranks with his party's opposition to the

Oslo accords.

Another defector from traditional allegiances is Haim Ramon. Once a prominent young Labour hopeful, Mr. Ramon resigned from Mr. Rabin's cabinet and ran in the Histadrut elections at the head of an equally eclectic coalition which managed to align the anticlerical Meretz with the rabbis of Shas. His success in wresting the unions from their discredited Labour leaders may have whetted Mr. Ramon's ambitions. He recently assailed both Likud and Labour as "imitations of parties founded at the beginning of the century" and spoke of "a yearning for change in the political map... particularly deep among young people." Although committed to serving out his term as head of the Histadrut, Mr. Ramon has hinted that he might run in 1996. In that event, he would endeavour to draw in his Likud mirror-image, Meir Shavit, who has likewise distanced himself from that party's present leadership and its hardline stance.

A Ramon-Shavit alliance could appeal to young voters weary of the eternal Labour-Likud division. With a line of dovish pragmatism on relation with Israel's Arab neighbours, and yuppie liberalism on domestic matters — notably, opposition to the religious laws both major parties have passed to appease Orthodox interests — such a slate might fulfill a surprising role, recalling the short-lived "Democratic Movement for Change" which ran in the 1977 elections, drawing large numbers of Labour voters to end that party's 30-year monopoly on power and ease Likud into office.

Yossi Sarid's ambitions

But in its attempt to woo the political centre, a Ramon-Shavit slate could face competition from another "young" politician, the fiftyish Yossi Sarid (youth is a relative term in Israeli politics, long dominated by septuagenarians like Mr. Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir). Mr. Sarid made his name mainly as a vocal and eloquent dove; but since joining Mr. Rabin's cabinet on the Meretz ticket, he has traded his hard-hitting rhetoric for a more statesmanlike tone, often serving as

LETTERS

Women do deserve a better chance

To the Editor:

KUDOS TO your newspaper for having published the editorial, "Women deserve better" (Jordan Times, Dec. 12, 1994). It is extremely heartening to know that your newspaper takes women's issues seriously.

However, we cannot pretend to believe that the problems faced by women in this part of the world can be equated with those that women in the developed countries have to contend with. For, while women in the developed world have acquired a level of self-reliance that comes with education and economic independence, most women here still lead cloistered lives, controlled by the patriarchal set-up of society. It would have made much more interesting reading had your editorial focused more clearly on the specific issues related to women in the Arab World.

I look forward to reading more enlightening articles on this topical issue in your newspaper.

Shukria Khalid, Amman.

Do not despair

To the Editor:

I HASTEN to congratulate Abdulla Hassnat on his op-ed piece "Access denied" which was published in the Jordan Times on Dec. 29, 1994.

If ever the three estates of government (the executive, legislative and judiciary) are to function in harmony, or even a semblance of it, the fourth estate, the media, should not be denied access to its lifeline, which is information.

Moreover, I support his remark on the subject that "change can only come about by a change in attitude."

In my book, the Jordan Times, among others, is one organ of enlightened media that could effectively help the process of educating and changing attitudes.

Do not despair. Patience will eventually translate into triumph.

Ludwig W. Tamari, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

A united Arab list

Speculation hinges upon a possible alliance between the Islamist movement headed by Sheikh Abdallah Nimi Darwish, and secular intellectuals like Ahmad Tibi. At first sight, it seems like a strange coupling. The conservative Darwish and his followers have hitherto shunned the national stage, focusing their efforts on municipal work in Arab communities. Islamist slates have taken over a number of local councils, winning respect with effective and honest administration. Unlike the retiring Darwish, Mr. Tibi is a dapper media celebrity, frequently appearing on Israeli television as articulate spokesman for Yasser Arafat, to whom he serves as adviser on Israeli affairs. But while Mr. Darwish and Mr. Tibi appear to have little in common, both are young pragmatists notable for their political acumen; they recently worked in effective concert as mediators between the Palestinian authority in Gaza and the Hamas opposition.

Neither man denies rumoured plans to field a united Arab list in the 1996 elections. Mr. Darwish recently admitted "we talk about it occasionally, in the car on the way to Gaza." Mr. Tibi noted that he is "obviously coordinated" with Mr. Darwish in shared support for the Oslo accords. Other potential adherents include former Knesset member Mohammad Marai. Polls already show one in four Arab voters inclined to support such an alliance.

Nevertheless, half a million Arabs are eligible to vote, constituting another constituency with potential for political surprises. Traditionally, Israel's Palesti-

Another eventful year folds

By Sa'eda Kilani

AMMAN — 1994 cannot be classified as good or bad for Jordan. It was simply historic.

The Washington Declaration of July 25 followed by the Wadi Araba treaty on Oct. 26 signalled a new phase in the history of the Kingdom. After 46 years of a state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel, border crossings were opened and telephone lines linked.

The U.N. Cairo conference on population was another major event for the Middle East and the world as a whole. The conference that started with a great deal of haggling had nevertheless a happy ending. Confrontations between Muslim and Christian clergy on the one hand and liberals on the other ended in an unbinding but promising compromise. Cairo is already launching campaigns against circumcision of women and Jordan is planning to introduce family planning education at schools.

There were sad moments. Queen Mother Zein Al Sharaf died on April 26 at the age of 85.

And happy ones: Custom duties on cars were reduced.

Following is a chronology of events of 1994:

January:

7 — Jordan and PLO sign economic agreement

— Israel frees 101 Palestinians in goodwill gesture for peace.

10 — Jordanian banks allowed to reopen one branch each in West Bank.

16 — U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad meet amid positive signals

— House endorses draft budget after marathon debate

— President Assad declares normal ties possible with Israel.

— Ten men guilty of conspiring to assassinate the King, 3 sentenced to death

22 — Syrian president's eldest son Basel dies in accident.

— Malhas laments deficiencies of laws to protect consumers in food, drugs

— American rabbis visit Kingdom on peace support mission

24 — Peace talks resume amid mixed signals

30 — Jordanian diplomat Naeem Maaytah assassinated in Beirut

31 — Former Prime Minister Bahjat Talhouni passes away

February:

2 — Bomb explodes at Zarqa cinema, two injured

— Iranian embassy reportedly begins staff reduction

3 — Deputies demand Malhas substantiate his charges

6 — Iran to cut embassy staff to 9

— Two suspects confess to blasts, linked to Afghan returnees

8 — Cabinet to endorse sales tax draft law

9 — King urges government to ensure quality of food, water and drugs

— Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres sign agreement in Cairo.

12 — Grindlays to reopen in West Bank

14 — Toujan Faisal accuses fellow deputy of insult and assault

16 — Zeid Rifai secures Higher Council seat, Mudar Badran resigns in protest

— Arafat accuses Israel of facilitating arms trade in



MAKING HISTORY: Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty in Wadi Araba on Oct. 26

West Bank

— House fails to end Faisaliah-Khreisha row

— Yemeni leaders sign reconciliation accord here

22 — PLO, Israel resume self-rule negotiations

25-30 — Including Abu Nidal suspects arrested for Maaytah killing

— Massacre at Hebron mosque, 60 killed

— Bomb blast in Lebanon church claims 9 lives

March:

2 — Israel frees 500 detainees

— House votes 59-3 against lifting Khreisha's immunity

5 — All four defendants found guilty in New York blast

— 33 Iranian diplomats left Jordan

9 — King performs Umra pilgrimage

13 — PLO ready to resume talks, if U.S. Russia back U.N. move

— Muslim World celebrates Eid Al Fitr

17 — Bank of Jordan to reopen branch in Ramallah

18 — Security Council condemns Hebron massacre, split on Iraq

20 — House votes to disband all municipal councils by end of 1994

— Crown Prince Hassan turns 47

21 — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali reelected with 99% vote

23 — Parliament ends its first regular session

26 — Arab League opens meeting, freezes changes to charter

29 — King links Jordan's return to peace talks with lifting embargo on Aqaba

31 — King receives Arafat message, restates stand on Jerusalem.

April:

4 — 49 expellees return home

— Fire breaks out in Amman's Forte Grande Hotel, Italian guest killed

— Regent says Jerusalem is inseparably linked to Islam

8 — Suicide bomber kills seven in Afula

14 — Bus blast kills 6 in Hadera

May:

4 — 49 expellees return home

— Fire breaks out in Amman's Forte Grande Hotel, Italian guest killed

— Regent says Jerusalem is inseparably linked to Islam

8 — Suicide bomber kills seven in Afula

14 — Bus blast kills 6 in Hadera

— ESCWA votes to move offices to Beirut

6 — Jordan, Israel start talks on border demarcation

— Government reappoints Mohamed and Saeed Nabulsi to head CBJ

8 — Cabinet undergoes major reshuffle

— Jordan marks Arab Army Day

9 — Israel agrees to demarcate Jordan borders, study fair water sharing

11 — 287 Palestinians freed, PLO gets \$42 million

12 — King heads for London en route to U.S. for check-up

17 — OJ Simpson arrested on murder charges of his wife Nicole

21 — West Bank, Jericho follow Jordan's curricula; Gaza uses Egypt's

26 — Queen Mother Zein Al Sharaf passes away

30 — Israel and PLO sign economic agreement

July:

1 — Jordan allows free entry and exit for West Bankers

— Document of Arab economic boycott of Israel

2 — Jordan marks 41st year of King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers

— Mandala wins elections

4 — Israel, PLO sign autonomy accord

7 — Yemenis fight civil war

10 — Jordan, PLO open talks on economic accord

13 — Israel leaves Gaza and Jericho 27 years after occupation, Palestinian police take over

17 — Court finds Jordan Times guilty of violating Press Law

23 — Jacqueline Kennedy dies

24 — Sister of King Abdullah, Princess Saleha laid to rest

26 — Lebanon tries 7 Abu Nidal suspects for killing Maaytah

30 — House insists on separating sexes at sports facilities

31 — Israel releases hundreds of prisoners

June:

1 — Israel to bar Arafat from Jerusalem

14 — Bus blast kills 6 in Hadera

17 — King reiterates his

20 — Israeli Foreign Minister Peres makes first public visit by an Israeli leader to Jordan since 1948

21 — Jordan hosts historic tripartite meeting

25 — Jordan, Israel sign Washington Declaration with U.S. President Bill Clinton — end to 46 years of state of war

27 — Jordan says its role in Jerusalem is unpolarized

28 — Opposition parties demand change in one-sided coverage of peace talks

— 300 students stage sit-in and burn the Israeli flag at the University of Jordan in protest against the Washington Declaration

30 — U.S. to write off \$696 million in Jordan's debts

31 — Jordan reiterates its non-political stand on shrines in Jerusalem

August:

3 — King Hussein flies over Israel and Jerusalem with an Israeli fighter escort on his way home from the Washington summit

4 — Israeli Knesset votes 91-3 in favour of the declaration

— 47 deputies voice total support of King's moves

6 — 1,000 militants protest against Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen

8 — Aqaba hosts Jordanian-Israeli summit

— Jordan and Israel open direct telephone lines, a border crossing between Aqaba and Eilat

— Warren Christopher holds talks with Assad.

9 — Jordan and Israel start negotiations on border demarcation and water rights

9 — UNRWA moves offices from Vienna to Gaza

10 — Jordanian and Israeli survey teams demarcate 1928 borders

— Jordan marks 42nd anniversary of King's accession to the Throne

15 — Crown Prince forms Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development

— Carlos the Jackal arrested in Sudan and flown to France after two decades on the run

— PLO launches an unprecedented crackdown on Hamas members in Gaza

17 — Jordan, Israel sign

— PLO prepares for elections

13 — Cairo conference adopts a 20-year plan aimed at broadening the approach to population control.

15 — Arab League hails Washington Declaration, says Jerusalem city must be restored to Palestinian sovereignty

17 — King reiterates his

— Opposition rejects

— PLO criticizes GCC for lifting Arab boycott

10 — Tension rises as Iraq insists on its stand

— Potash company raises foreign capital

11 — Iraq announces pull-back from border

12 — Rabin suspends

— Opposition talks in Cairo after the kidnap of an Israeli soldier

13 — U.S. says Iraq still poses threat

— Israeli hostage, commando and three kidnappers killed in an attempt to rescue the soldier held hostage by the Hamas group

— Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz is stabbed by extremists

17 — Jordan, Israel initial peace treaty

— Opposition rejects

— PLO criticizes GCC for lifting Arab boycott

— First Islamic bank approved for Palestinian self-rule areas

10 — Compromise over abortion reached at Cairo conference, Vatican has reservations

— Jordan and Israel sign

— First Islamic bank approved for Palestinian self-rule areas

11 — Israel hosts

— Opposition stages rally against opening of Israeli embassy

12 — Jordan votes against

— Opposition rejects

— PLO criticizes GCC for lifting Arab boycott

— First Islamic bank approved for Palestinian self-rule areas

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GCC countries give way to private sector

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states, reeling under weak oil prices, enter the new year with plans to push ahead with sweeping reforms ushering in the end of government domination of the economy and enabling the private sector to tap their enormous overseas resources.

After decades of subsisting on government spending, the private sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is becoming increasingly independent and has started to record sustainable growth rates despite persistent reductions in state budgets due to low oil prices.

Officials and economists said they expected the private sector to become the pivot of economic growth in the coming years after it had played only a marginal role in massive infrastructure projects during the oil boom.

They cited government pri-

vatisation plans, new incentives for industries, the large domestic liquidity, the liberal economic policies and modern infrastructure that will woo in local and foreign investors.

"While substantial government investments had laid the foundations of sustained economic growth in many areas and the creation of a large infrastructure base, the GCC private sector is now bound to increase its participation and eventually take the lead in future economic development," GCC Secretary General Fahim Al Qassim said.

"Privatisation of key public sector enterprises such as petrochemical plants, telecommunications, airlines and refineries is now firmly on the agenda for the GCC countries," he told an offshoot conference in Abu Dhabi.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab

Emirates (UAE) — announced economic reforms to cushion the impact of low oil prices that have created a persistent shortfall in the budgets and turned large surpluses in their balances of payments into deficits.

Although most of them slashed spending in 1994, they still projected a deficit of around \$9.5 billion compared with \$14 billion in 1993. Their trade balance continued to record a surplus of around \$18 billion in 1993 but the balance of payment suffered from a deficit of \$40-50 billion due to continued Gulf war payments and a rise in services imports and remittances.

"GCC economies have continued to grow despite lower oil prices over the past years. But this is due to a growth in the private sector, or in other words, the non-oil sector," a Gulf economist said.

French unemployment edges up

PARIS (R) — French unemployment edged higher in November but the labour ministry Friday said the jobless trend was still heading downward in the longer term.

A seasonally adjusted 3,000 people joined the unemployment roll in November, taking the total to 3,337,200.

The jobless rate based on International Labour Organisation criteria, which exclude jobseekers who did any work, was unchanged from October at 12.6 per cent of the workforce and in line with forecasts by economists.

But the figure may cause some embarrassment for the government, which had promised unemployment would end 1994 at about the same level it started it.

Mr. Ye said coal, which provides 70 per cent of China's energy and whose supply price is still held artificially low, was in serious need of price reform. High black market prices have been a factor in boosting inflation.

Mr. Ye predicted inflation would fall in 1995.

The government would implement no price reforms in early 1995 as part of its campaign to cool inflation. Mr. Ye said, but declined to say if any sectors would face price liberalisation in the second half of the year.

"What we need now is a certain period in which to digest the price rises that we've seen already," Mr. Ye told Reuters. "I can say that in the first half of 1995 we will be digesting prices, not carrying out further price reforms."

Inflation was 13 per cent in 1993. China said it wanted to hold inflation around 10 per cent in 1994, but officials and economists concede the goal is unattainable in 1994 or 1995.

"I think a lot of people do not understand that much of what we are calling inflation is the result of planned price

reforms," Mr. Ye said in an interview. "There are some who would argue this shouldn't be called inflation at all."

China has said it wants to deregulate the prices of almost all commodities as part of the 15-year-old reforms of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping so the economy becomes a system governed by the market and not Communist Party directives.

The government had underestimated the 1994 impact of raising the price of grain — the key commodity still under state control — coupled with disastrous floods and drought that further fuelled the rise in agricultural prices, he said.

Mr. Ye said coal, which provides 70 per cent of China's energy and whose supply price is still held artificially low, was in serious need of price reform. High black market prices have been a factor in boosting inflation.

Industrial added value grew by 18 per cent in 1994 to 1.84 trillion yuan (\$216.5 billion), with faster growth recorded in coastal areas and the non-state economy, Mr. Ye said. Industrial added value grew 21.1 per cent in 1993 compared with 1992.

Beijing issues figures sometimes for industrial output sometimes for industrial

reforms.

At the end of November, losses of state-owned enterprises were up 27.6 per cent from a year earlier, he said.

Reforms in 1995 could force these loss-makers to turn a profit or face bankruptcy.

During a television interview, Mr. Fujimori said "the data we have up to now shows the economy grew at a rate of 12.8 per cent but we expect that will be adjusted downwards to 12.5 per cent."

He also predicted Peru's inflation to reach 15.5 per cent for the year.

When asked how the eco-

nomic growth predicted for the country would translate into better living standards for Peruvians, Mr. Fujimori said "just we have to have macroeconomic stabilisation and then it will gradually trickle down to the population."

Currently, about 12 million of Peru's 23 million people are living in poverty.

"When there is faster economic growth, there are more tax collections," he said, adding that these resources are being channelled to the neediest sectors.

Mr. Fujimori said the

commission for Latin America (CEPAL), an organisation of the United Nations, said Peru's economy grew the fastest in the region in 1994, estimating its growth at 11.7 per cent.

An interesting figure pro-

vided by CEPAL is that next

year, Peru is again going to be number one in the region

in economic growth. They forecast 6.5 per cent (growth rate)."

Mr. Fujimori said, "It's going to something more" than the CEPAL's figure, he added.

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nomic growth predicted for the country would translate into better living standards for Peruvians, Mr. Fujimori said "just we have to have macroeconomic stabilisation and then it will gradually trickle down to the population."

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Business
Daily
Beat
A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Labour violations reach 18,000

According to the minister of labour, the number of permits issued to foreign workers declined from 96,000 in 1992 to 56,000 in 1993 and went down further to 50,000 in 1994. Most of the foreign labourers worked in the construction, agriculture and service sectors. Some technical experts worked in other areas and for Arab and foreign investors. The ministry issued 18,000 violations last year and fined the employers for a total of JD1 million for hiring foreign workers without permits. The ministry has 31 vocational training centres to train Jordanians in order to have them replace foreign workers. The ministry, which monitors about 100,000 institutions, has banned foreign workers from 15 professions, including accounting, pharmaceuticals, clerical and driving (Al Ra'i).

Nutri Dar is a new public shareholding company floating one million shares worth JD 1 million for public subscription. Registered under number 257 at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sept. 29, 1994, with a JD4 million capital, 27 founders have subscribed to JD3 million. Main founders are: Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Company (JD1.2 million), Nizar Jardaneh (JD375,000) and Jordan Investment and Finance bank (JD 100,000). The new company aims mainly at producing baby milk and food. Subscription starts Saturday, Jan. 7, 1995, and ends Jan. 26, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

Jordan Export Development and Trade Centres Corporation will participate in two fairs in Dubai and Egypt to be held during March 1995. Interested Jordanian manufacturers wishing to exhibit their products should contact the corporation before Jan. 10, 1995, for the Egyptian fair (Al Ra'i).

The Amman Bank for Investment denied having requested to open any branch in Israel or the Palestinian territories. A bank official said the bank had only submitted applications to open a representative office in Ramallah. The bank last year signed an agreement with Bank of Palestine to be its correspondent in the West Bank and Gaza (Al Ra'i).

A dispute between an agent in Jordan and an Iraqi buyer has entangled the transport company which has 24 of its refrigerator trucks loaded with meat stuck at the Jordanian-Iraqi border. The trucks have been blocked at the crossing for more than 21 days (Al Dusour).

The Greater Amman Municipality has decided to incorporate the profession and health licences in one form as of the beginning of 1995. As such, businesses are required to bring both licences when applying for renewal next year in order to get a unified licence (Al Dusour).

Under an agreement signed between the civil aviation authorities of Jordan and Malaysia, Royal Jordanian will increase the number of its flights to Kuala Lumpur to three per week (Al Aswaa).

Saudi Arabia decided to give Jordanian drivers of refrigerator trucks a six-month multiple entry visa. Previously, Riyadh was allowing the drivers a one-week or two-week single journey visa. Since Jordanian refrigerator trucks go beyond Saudi Arabia to the other Gulf countries of Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, all what the drivers hope for now is to obtain transit visas to the countries in addition to the six-month Saudi entry visa (Al Aswaa).

Mexico turmoil likely to cause only ripples in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The turmoil engulfing Mexico's currency and economy is likely to create only minor ripples north of the border in the huge U.S. economy, economists said.

The approximately 40 per cent slide in the value of the peso is expected to cut the price of Mexican goods imported here, particularly fruit and vegetables, silver jewelry and leather.

Grocers, electronics stores and others catering to Mexicans who cross the border to shop in states such as California and Texas are likely to see sales fall because of the peso's woes. Reports from the border area say sales already have dropped.

U.S. industries that export to Mexico — such as auto parts, telecommunications equipment and plastics, among others — are likely to see sales there drop in the short run. The peso's weakness makes U.S. goods more expensive in Mexico.

But economists expect no shock waves that would really affect the robust growth and low inflation the U.S. enjoys.

"Although Mexico is an extremely important trading partner, recent events there are unlikely to have a major effect on the U.S. economy," said David Gould of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

"We have two countries that are very integrated with one another, which leads investors to think that when one has a problem the other will suffer," said Mark Spiegel of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

"But I just don't see it, because the Mexican economy is so small relative to

the United States," he added.

The U.S. output of goods and services worldwide last year was nearly 20 times that of Mexico. Put another way, the United States accounted for about a quarter of world economic output in 1993, according to World Bank data.

Mexico is vying with Japan to be the United States's second largest trading partner after Canada.

The North American Free Trade Agreement that joined the United States, Mexico and Canada into a huge trading bloc at the start of 1994 has helped fuel U.S.-Mexican trade, said the Commerce Department. U.S. exports to Mexico have been running a record average rate of \$1 billion a week since May.

But because trade with Mexico accounts for only a fraction of the \$5.4 trillion U.S. economy, the impact of the turmoil in Mexico on overall U.S. inflation and growth is expected to be slight, said economists.

U.S. exports to Mexico of goods, services and receipts of income from investments in Mexico accounted for about one per cent of U.S. gross domestic product in 1993.

Imports from Mexico of goods and services and payments of income for Mexican investments in this country equalled about one per cent of GDP.

Economists expect the flow of U.S. exports to slow, at least in the near term.

And the higher Mexican interest rates accompanying the turmoil are expected to restrain growth south of the border, curbing demand for U.S. goods and services.

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 26 - December 30, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated sharply against major European currencies at the end of last week, while depreciating slightly against the yen. It ended the week 1.92 per cent lower against the mark, 1.31 per cent lower against sterling and 0.37 per cent lower against the yen.

While New York and European centres closed on Christmas Monday, the dollar depreciated against the mark and rose marginally against the yen and sterling Tuesday. The dollar showed little reaction to the release of the U.S. consumer confidence index showing an increase from 100.4 during November to 102.2 during December, its highest level in four and half years. On the other hand, the Mexican currency continued its depreciation against the dollar, due to dealers' concern over the Mexican government's economic policy.

The dollar declined sharply against other major currencies Wednesday. Its decline came on the back of rumours, later denied by the U.S. Treasury Department, that the Mexican government used its line of credit from the United States and Canada to support its currency. Analysts indicated that the dollar's decline was due to the cost to the U.S. economy associated with extending credit to Mexico.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Thursday. The rise materialised in spite of the mark's appreciation against the Italian and Spanish currencies in cross trading. Political instability in both Spain and Italy lead to widespread selling to both currencies against the mark.

At the end of the week, the dollar retreated against European currencies, while rising slightly against the yen. Its decline was attributed to thin trading ahead of the New Year holiday.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5495 marks, 99.75 yen and at \$1.5665 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	23/12/94		30/12/94		Percent Change
	Close	Close	Close	Close	
Sterling Pound	1.5463	1.5665	1.5734	1.5734	1.31%
Deutsche Mark	1.5793	1.5475	1.5475	1.5475	-1.9%
Swiss Franc	1.3329	1.3090	1.3090	1.3090	-3.53%
French Franc	5.4525	5.3570	5.3570	5.3570	-2.16%
Japanese Yen	100.12	99.75	99.75	99.75	0.37%

* USD per SGD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	23/12/1994				30/12/1994			
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)						
U.S. Dollar	5.93	7.56	5.81	7.12	5.93	7.56	5.81	7.12
Sterling Pound	5.87	7.62	5.81	7.25	5.87	7.62	5.81	7.25
Deutsche Mark	5.12	8.61	5.06	5.56	5.12	8.61	5.06	5.56
Swiss Franc	3.67	4.58	3.68	4.66	3.67	4.58	3.68	4.66
French Franc	5.68	6.94	5.63	6.81	5.68	6.94	5.63	6.81
Japanese Yen	2.31	2.59	2.17	2.32	2.31	2.59	2.17	2.32

Interest rate for amounts exceeding 1,000 million or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	23/12/94	31/12/94	23/12/94	31/12/94
U.S. Dollar	0.7060	0.7050	0.7050	0.7050
Sterling Pound	1.0954	1.1009	1.0954	1.1009
Deutsche Mark	0.4515	0.4536	0.4515	0.4536
Swiss Franc	0.5342	0.5369	0.5342	0.5369
French Franc	0.1310	0.1317	0.1310	0.1317
Japanese Yen	0.7010	0.7045	0.7010	0.7045
Dutch Guilder	0.4031	0.4051	0.4031	0.4051
Swedish Krona
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0434	0.0437	0.0434
Belgian Franc

* Per 100

World financial markets wrap up bleak '94

LONDON (R) — World financial markets Friday quietly wrapped up a bleak year that many traders in Europe and Asia would like to forget, but there were widespread hopes that 1995 would be much better for stocks.

Of the major markets, only the two largest, Tokyo and New York, made good gains, of 13.24 and 2.4 per cent respectively.

In Europe the euphoria at the start of the year soon gave way to gloom and there were sharp losses in Paris (17 per cent) London (10 per cent) and Frankfurt (seven per cent).

Sydney also did poorly, losing 12 per cent.

What started the rot, market experts agreed, was the signal from the U.S. Federal

Reserve in February that the period of easy money was over and that the central bank was determined to get to grips with inflationary pressures. This alarmed the bond markets, which successively demanded higher long-term yields to compensate for their fears of inflation.

Other Asian markets had a rough time as Hong Kong, a strong riser in 1993, lost a whopping 31.1 per cent on its Hang Seng index, one of the worst performances in 12 years.

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Rafsanjani plans 1,000 stores to tame bazaar

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, faced with complaints about empty store shelves and high prices, has announced plans for setting up a 1,000-store chain at the open market rate.

He said 60 per cent of the capital would be raised by offering shares to the public starting next week. The state would guarantee the principal and a 20 per cent return for the first five years.

The rest of the capital for the chain of stores called Refah (welfare) would be provided by the Commerce Ministry, state banks and municipalities, he said.

The plan is the latest in a government anti-proteering drive launched in October and which bazaar retailers have been singled out as the main cause of spiralling prices.

"Store shelves are empty of cheese, butter and cream," the hardline Kayhan newspaper said this week. It said the price of grains, vegetables, clothing and other items has increased.

The plan to set up the stores has met with opposition from an influential Islamic organisation grouping bazaar merchants.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the plan involved setting up a

chain of about 1,000 stores at a capital of one trillion rials (\$572 million at the official exchange rate). The figure is closer to \$370 million when converted at the open market rate.

Analysts said the Paris bourse should recoup this year's losses in 1995 with solid investment and earnings growth, and low inflation more than offsetting nervous

ness ahead of the French presidential election in the spring.

But many analysts say that in today's electronically linked markets, national markets could not operate free of pressure from elsewhere.

"The world's economies and markets are increasingly interdependent and international perspectives and fundamentals will ultimately matter most," said Graeme Knox of the Scottish Amicable Insurance Group. "The U.S. economy remains key."

The knock-on effects soon undermined stocks, causing many analysts to revise their earlier bullish forecasts and catching out many investors stuck with over-valued shares and who then gambled that the downturn would soon reverse.

At the end of the year, several countries such as Britain and France were basking in solid growth, low inflation and good corporate profits that seemed to augur well for the future.

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Vatanen looks for 5th Paris-Dakar title

GARANADA, Spain (AFP) — Ari Vatanen will make an emotional return to the Paris-Dakar rally Sunday, an event he dominated to win four times between 1987 and 1991.

For the second year running the first competitive stage is raced in Granada in Spain on New Year's Day. The rally then sets sail for Africa from Spain to miss Algeria because of the terrorist trouble there.

Flying Finn Vatanen, also world rally champion in 1981, did not compete in the Paris-Dakar the last two seasons to concentrate on the world championship circuit.

But the 42-year-old, who lives in France and will drive for Citroen, was glad to make his seventh appearance in this most prestigious event in the off-road world circuit.

Vatanen said the two circuits required totally different abilities, adding "you cannot compare them, the disciplines are so different. But the Dakar is so important — from a media and an emotional point of view. I have missed it."

France's Hubert Auriol, 1992 race winner and now race director, won the rally twice on a motorbike before breaking both ankles in 1987 and switching to cars.

He has planned a 10,060km drive through five countries. The 14 timed stages on uncharted routes make up 6,169km and a speed limit has been imposed for driving through villages.

In 16 years, 35 drivers have been killed although the number of African villagers killed in remote hamlets is not recorded.

A satellite-linked computer the size of a shoe-box on every car and motorbike will



Finland's Ari Vatanen and French Gilles Picard drive off their Citroen at the predeparture of the Paris-Dakar Rally (AFP photo)

ensure no-one can do a Mark Thatcher. The son of the former British premier gained the rally international attention when he got lost in the Sahara 10 years ago.

The rally has been condemned by the Vatican as a rich man's sport in starving Africa and occasionally seems to get out of control.

But Auriol said: "It might sometimes seem chaotic but this is Africa. It cannot be

organized like a Formula One grand prix."

Former rally world champion Ari Vatanen of Finland, who has won four times, is favourite in a Citroen ZX. Jacky Ickx of Belgium, six-time winner of the Le Mans 24 Hour sports car classic and Paris-Dakar winner in 1983, makes his comeback at 49.

Frenchman Marcel Fingueny, at 80, is the oldest of the 86 drivers. He is driv-

ing a Toyota Landcruiser.

Stephane Perrhansel of France, who missed last year's rally, is favourite to win his fourth motorcycle title. There are 98 riders.

The rally costs about 120,000 francs (\$24,000) for private drivers but Citroen and Mitsubishi will each be investing about 600,000 francs (\$120,000) in what is basically a publicity exercise.

The organisers, who also

put on the Tour de France cycling race, have hired 29 doctors, a mobile operating theatre, 10 helicopters, 22 light aircraft and 32 vehicles to look after the cast of 500.

One million litres of gas and 750,000 litres of kerosene is needed to keep the convoy moving.

Last year's Paris to Dakar and back was a flop so the organisers have returned to the Dakar finish January 15.

Wihdat take 2 point lead; Hussein lose again and drop to 3rd

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As first division soccer teams took a much-deserved one week break, Al Wihdat settled comfortably with a two-point lead atop the 12-team standings after a crushing 6-0 victory over Al Jeel, while former leaders Al Hussein dropped to third place after losing 2-0 to Al Ramtha who moved up to second.

With five more weeks left in the competition, Al Ahli finally improved their standing and moved up to fifth after a 1-0 win over Kufraoum. It was their third consecutive win after defeating Al Jeel 2-0 and Shabab Al Hussein 4-0. They thus tied with Al Jazireh with 19 points but lead on goal difference.

Al Arabi remained out of the last four for now after their goalless tie with Shabab Al Hussein Saturday.

Al Wihdat vs. Jeel: Last

placed Al Jeel defied Al Wihdat only during the first half in which Jamal Mahmoud netted Al Wihdat's first goal from a penalty kick in the 27th minute.

However, Al Jeel collapsed in the second half during which Abdallah Abu Zame' added the second goal in the 51st minute. Striker Jihad Abdul Mun'een scored his first goal 12 minutes later giving Al Wihdat a 3-0 lead.

Mahmoud received a pass from Marwan Al Shamali to score the fourth goal in the 75th minute.

Abdul Mun'een then

added the fifth and sixth

goals in the 82nd and 85th minutes to the delight of over 10,000 cheering fans.

Al Wihdat will next face

Kufraoum while Al Jeel

will play Al Arabi.

Al Jazireh vs. Qadisieh: Al Jazireh have failed to score a victory during the second round of the competition. Their goalless draw against Al Qadisieh was their fourth tie. They also lost to Al Ramtha and Al Faisali and are now sixth.

Al Qadisieh were not much affected by the result however they will have to score some wins to move out of the relegation-threatened last four.

Al Qadisieh will next

play titleholders Al Faisali

while Al Jazireh meet Sha-

bab Al Hussein.

Al Arabi vs. Hussein: Al Hussein again lost to Al Ramtha by their first round score of 2-0.

Al Ramtha will now have the chance to move ahead when they meet lowly Al Karmel in their upcoming match.

Khaled Al Aqquri

scooped Al Ramtha's first

STANDINGS AFTER 17TH WEEK

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Ps.
Wihdat	17	12	5	—	24	3	29
Ramtha	17	11	5	1	35	10	27
Hussein	17	12	2	3	42	18	26
Faisali	17	8	7	2	28	9	23
Ahli	17	7	5	5	23	20	19
Jazireh	17	7	5	5	21	18	19
Kufraoum	17	8	1	8	27	28	17
Arabi	17	5	5	7	19	27	15
Qadisieh	17	4	6	7	19	23	14
Shabab Al Hussein	17	1	4	12	17	37	6
Karmel	17	1	4	12	12	41	6
Jeel	17	1	1	15	10	43	3



French yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier's disabled yacht bobs in the Southern Ocean off Australia. A naval frigate

was expected to reach the crippled yacht at noon Sunday (AFP photo)

Autissier "sad and cold" awaiting rescue

SYDNEY (Agencies) — French solo yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier was spending New Year's eve "sad and cold," adrift in frigid seas between Australia and the Antarctic Saturday as she waited to be winched off her demasted ocean racer.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said Autissier had battened down for the night as another front moved into the perilous region — known to sailors as the "roaring forties."

She was reported to be in good health as she faced her fourth night adrift since setting off from her yacht Ecurie Poisson Charentes II Wednesday.

Winds in the region about 900 nautical miles (1,600 km) south of Adelaide were blowing above 40 knots, whipping up frigid seas into a three-metre (10-foot) swell.

The Australian frigate Darwin was due in the area about 6:30 a.m. Sunday (1930 GMT Saturday) and was expected that Autissier would be winched off around 8 a.m. (2100 GMT).

Authority spokesman David Gray said radio contact had been made by overflying Australian Air Force aircraft Saturday.

"Her main aim now is to keep as much water out of the boat as possible," Gray said.

Officials said rescuers were

avoiding unnecessary contact.

"They don't want to spend a lot of time talking to her — it only uses up the batteries on her radio," Gray said.

Autissier, 38, was heading for Sydney in the second leg of the BOC round the world solo challenge when she activated the emergency beacons at 5:45 p.m. (0300 GMT) Wednesday.

Autissier has been under constant observation from Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Hercules transport and Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft, which have circled the yacht in round-the-clock shifts since it was first spotted by a Hercules Thursday.

RAAF personnel had to be recalled from Christmas holidays to maintain a pool of crews for the operation, which defence department sources said is expected to cost more than one million dollars (\$770,000 US).

Serge Vivian, a member of her yacht's land-based support team, talked to her by radio Saturday morning from a Hercules which has been in constant radio communication with her.

Assuming the rescue is successful, the Darwin, which left Fremantle in Western Australia on Thursday, will

take Autissier either to Adelaide in South Australia or to Hobart on the island state of Tasmania.

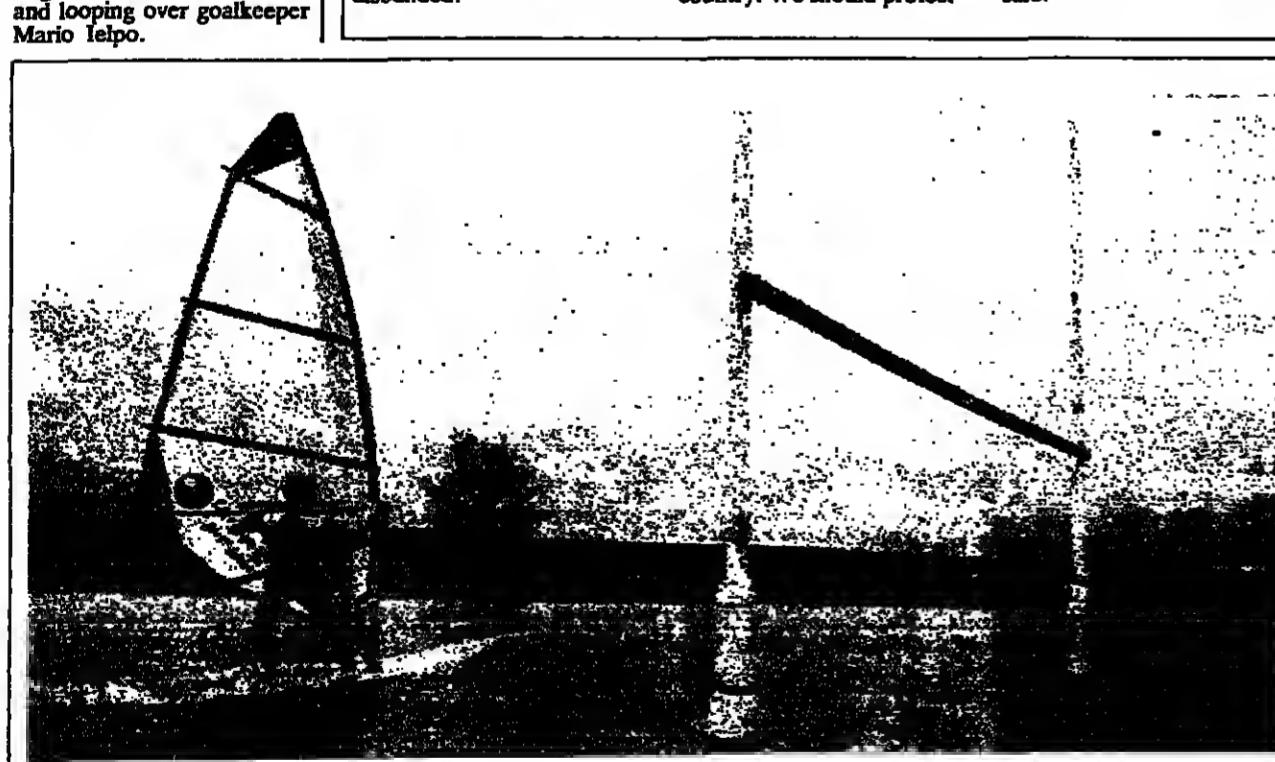
BOC media director Dan McConnell said the rescue operation had been brought forward by several hours and the helicopter would be launched as soon as it came within range of the yacht.

The yacht will be abandoned as it presents no hazard to other shipping, although AMSA officials said it was expected its insurers would attempt to salvage the vessel.

This was the second dismasting for the Ecurie Poisson Charentes II. It was forced to stop at Kerguelen Island on December 13 for repairs after losing her mast during this second leg from Cape Town to Sydney.

Autissier, who has been sailing since she was seven years old, is a marine science professor from La Rochelle on the west coast of France. She competed in the 1990-91 BOC singlehanded race and in May, with a crew of three, broke the New York to San Francisco record around Cape Horn in 17 days in the same boat.

Frenchman Christophe Auguin finished first in the leg from South Africa in his solo Scota Calberson a fortnight ago.



A windsurfer tries out a flooded rugby pitch as gales lashed Southern England bringing chaos to many rail and road networks (AFP photo)

T O D A Y	Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144	Cinema PLAZA Tel.: 699236	Cinema CONCORD Tel.: 677420	Cinema AMMOUN THEATRE Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema Nabil Al Mashni Theatre Tel.: 675571	Cinema AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155
	Presents: A world famous movie picture worth watching: THE FLINTSTONES Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The Lion King for children only Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15 Roddy Piper — Billy Blanks in Back in Action Shows: 8:30, 10:30	Sylvester Stallone/Sharon Stone... THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Shows: 3:15, 5:15 CRUSH	will soon present: Mousa Hijazin (SUM'AA) In the satirical political comedy: Hi Citizen	Presents Abu Awwad In the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: AI Salam Ya Salam. Daily at 8:30. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. In English Sunday
						January 15, 1995

Quarterback legends to face off in NFL playoffs

MIAMI (AFP) — It's the most mouth-watering quarterback match-up to grace the first round of the National Football League playoffs — Miami's Dan Marino v Joe Montana of the Kansas City Chiefs.

It will be only the third meeting between the two. Inevitably, it begs the question who is greater — Marino with his four American Conference passing records and his NFL single season records for touchdown passes and total yardage, or Montana with his four Super Bowl titles?

Both men say the question can't be answered in a single game, but the debate rages on.

"I know people will be looking at the match-up between us," Marino said. "But the real match-up is our defence against Joe and the other way for me."

"I'll be juiced up regardless. It's a playoff game, and that's what it's all about."

Montana, who wants to add at least one more season to his 15-year NFL career, added: "If we were on the field together playing head-to-head, it would be different. But it doesn't work that way."

Between them the two have thrown passes totaling 85,724 yards, that's more than 48 miles, for 601 touchdowns.

They enter Saturday's AFC first-round game as aging, battle-scared warriors.

Marino, 33, limps noticeably in the wake of surgery last year to repair a torn achilles

tendon.

Montana, ever more fragile at 38, has a bruised right knee that forced him out of last week's final regular-season game against the Los Angeles Raiders.

The last time they met it was in the Super Bowl. That was 10 years ago, when Montana led the San Francisco 49ers to a 38-16 victory.

The fact that he is now on a quest for a fifth Super Bowl title only adds to the frustration for Marino, who never made it back to the championship game.

"The rings are a team effort," Montana stresses. "It's not a one-man thing. What he's doing is fair and above anything that's been done in this league for years."

Marino is second only to Fran Tarkenton in career passing yardage and touchdowns. Despite the Achilles injury, the worst of his 12-year career, he will likely play for several more years.

Montana, who ranks fourth in those categories, hopes to squeeze one more season out of his battered body. But he knows time is short.

"I know it's coming to an end," he said. "It's not something I can come back to, so I want to make it last as long as I can."

Despite his praise for Marino, he also knows that he would not trade his Super Bowl rings for Marino's records.

Given the choice, he said: "I'd take the rings."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Mills signs for Indonesian club

NHL lawyers to hold weekend talks

YAOUNDE (AFP) — Former Cameroon international Roger Mills has come out of retirement to sign with an Indonesian club, it was revealed this week. Mills, who became the oldest player to appear and score in a World Cup in a 6-1 loss to Russia in San Francisco, has left for Jakarta. However, Mills' departure surprised both the Cameroon Football Federation and the sports ministry as he is officially still the administrative director of the national side. Mills was arguably the major personality at the 1990 World Cup in Italy as his goals, celebrated with his own "snake hips" style dance, helped Cameroon to the quarter-finals.

Pistons centre has surgery on hand

AUBURN HILL, Michigan (AFP) — Oliver Miller of the Detroit Pistons had surgery Friday for a broken right hand and will be out for four to six weeks, the National Basketball Association team said. Miller had a pin inserted in his right hand after doctors decided his hand was not healing properly. Doctors also put guard Mark Macon's sprained right ankle in a cast. He is expected to be in the cast for a week and be back on court next week.

Top player killed in car smash

CHIETI, Italy (R) — Andrei Kuznetsov, Russian international volleyball player with Italian side Les Copains, died in a road crash Friday night, the club said Saturday. A car being driven by Ukraine-born Kuznetsov, 28, hit a guard rail alongside a central Italian highway, the police said. No other vehicle was involved. Kuznetsov's wife was slightly injured in the accident but his two children escaped unharmed. "This is an irreparable human and material loss for us," said Les Copains' president Vanni Monari.

Newcastle's Albert could be lost for season

LONDON (R) — English title contenders Newcastle may have lost Belgian international defender Philippe Albert for the rest of the season. British papers reported on Saturday that Albert was carried off the training ground in agony Friday after twisting his knee. Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan, whose fourth-placed side were playing Norwich away in the Premier League, was quoted as saying he believed the injury to be serious. "It looks like cartilage damage and that means we can forget him for the rest of the season," said Keegan. "It's a tremendous loss and I'm desperately disappointed for him."

No room for Salenko'

MOSCOW (R) — Russian national coach Oleg Romantsev finally spelled out that he had no room in his squad for Valencia striker Oleg Salenko, who this year set a World Cup record by scoring five times in a single game. "Every coach has his own concept ... at this time my assistants and I are selecting those players who we think can help us the most," he told a live soccer discussion programme on Russian television. "It's time we stopped bringing up this topic so often because it's starting to bore me," he said when asked why Salenko was no longer playing for Russia. Romantsev dropped Salenko for the European Championships qualifier against San Marino in October, saying he had not earned the right to automatic selection. Russian journalists say Romantsev does not like Salenko, one of a number of players who rebelled against former coach Pavel Sadyrin before the World Cup and then changed their minds. Salenko — who scored a record five goals against Cameroon and finished as joint leading scorer in the World Cup — insists he should be in the squad and says Romantsev wants to drop all those rebels who returned to the fold.

Austrian springs surprise at four Hills

OBERSTDORF, Germany (R) — Austrian teenager Reinhard Schwarzenberger, who had never before even qualified for a final jump-off, upset the favourites to win the first part of the prestigious Four Hills Ski Jumping event Friday. Schwarzenberger, 17, pulled off a massive 118-metre second jump in driving rain at Oberstdorf to sail past first round leader and Olympic gold medallist Jens Weißflog of Germany. Weißflog, who had also recorded 118 metres with his first jump, had to settle for third place behind Austria's Andreas Goldberger after slumping to just 105.5 metres on his second leap.

No Davis Cup contract for Becker

HAMBURG (AFP) — Boris Becker will not sign a contract with the German Tennis Federation to compete in the Davis Cup, the triple Wimbledon champion's lawyer Axel Meyer-Wolken has said. Meyer-Wolken said: "If Becker's physical condition allows it, he will be available to play in the Davis Cup, if the Federation so wishes. A contract is not necessary for that." The German press is currently speculating on Becker's participation next year in this event — effectively the men's team world championship. Becker led Germany to victory in 1988 and 1989.



O'Neal leads Magic over Clippers

ORLANDO (R) — Shaquille O'Neal scored 38 points and Anfernee Hardaway had 36, including four during a 9-0 Orlando run to start overtime as the Magic gained a 116-105 win over the Los Angeles Clippers Friday.

The Magic led 101-99 with 34 seconds left in regulation, but Tony Massenburg hit a pair of free throws with 26 seconds left for the Clippers, forcing overtime.

Orlando took control in overtime, scoring the first nine points to take a 110-101 lead and cruised from there. In Cleveland, Mark Price hit three-pointers to tie the game and converted a technical foul shot in the final 2:19 as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Atlanta Hawks 87-85.

The loss denied Atlanta head coach Lenny Wilkens of his all-time record 939th career NBA coaching win. Wilkens is tied with former Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach.

In Milwaukee, Scott Burrell scored 10 of his 25 points during a key run in the second and third quarters as the Charlotte Hornets gained a 101-94 win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Larry Johnson also scored 25 points for Charlotte, which has won 11 of its last 14 meetings with the Bucks.

Burrell scored 10 of his points to spark a 22-7 Charlotte run that turned a 51-38 second-quarter deficit into a 60-58 in the third.

In Washington, David Robinson scored 30 points and Chuck Person added 27, hitting on eight of 13 three-pointers, as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Washington Bullets, 115-101, for their eighth victory in nine games.

Clyde Drexler scored 39 points, including eight during a 10-point run that gave Portland a 114-113 lead with 41.7 seconds left. But Denver scored the final five points to seal the win.

Rookie point guard Jason Kidd fell one assist short of a triple double and was one of four Dallas players with 10 or more rebounds.

In Denver, Reggie Williams sank a pair of free throws with 1.2 seconds left to ice the game as the Denver Nuggets held off the Portland Trail Blazers, 118-114.

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Mahmoud Abdul Rauf had 26 points to lead the Nuggets in scoring for the eighth straight game.



Mark Price of the Cleveland Cavaliers #25 dribbles around Rick Fox of the Boston Celtics (AFP photo)

three-pointers down the stretch as the Houston Rockets beat the Utah Jazz, 111-103.

Olaoluwo has scored 114 points in his last three games.

Vernon Maxwell, scored 16 points for the Rockets.

Karl Malone led Utah with 25 points and 14 rebounds.

In Dallas, Roy Tarpley tied a season-high with 22 points to lead six players in double figures as the Dallas Mavericks cruised to a 110-94 victory over the Golden State Warriors, snapping their losing streak at four games.

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In Indiana, Derrick McKey scored 21 points and Reggie Miller scored 10 of his 12 in the decisive third quarter as the Indiana Pacers won their ninth straight home game with a 96-79 rout of the undermanned New Jersey Nets.

Byron Scott had 14 points and Rik Smits 12 for Indiana.

Benoit Benjamin had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Armon Gilliam had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

In Detroit, Dominique Wilkins scored 32 points and keyed runs in the second and fourth quarters as the Boston Celtics beat the undermanned Detroit Pistons, 124-107.

The Celtics broke a four-game losing streak with a 123-111 win over the Suns.

Charles Barkley scored 31 points and hauled in 23 rebounds for the Suns. Dan Majerle also had 31 points for Phoenix.

RESULTS

Cleveland	87	Atlanta	85
Indiana	96	New Jersey	79
Orlando	116	LA Clippers	105 (OT)
San Antonio	115	Washington	101
Boston	124	Detroit	107
New York	90	Minnesota	81
Chicago	133	Miami	88
Dallas	110	Golden State	94
Charlotte	101	Milwaukee	94
Denver	118	Portland	114
LA Lakers	127	Phoenix	112
Houston	111	Utah	103
Sacramento	85	Philadelphia	82

In Minnesota, Patrick Ewing scored seven of his 30 points during a key 17-6 third-quarter run and the New York Knicks overcame a 16-point deficit for 90-81 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Derek Harper added 17 points and Charles Smith contributed 16 for the Knicks.

Ewing, who also had 12 rebounds, scored 30 points.

In Chicago, B.J. Armstrong scored 26 points, including hitting all five of his three-point attempts, and the Chicago Bulls made a team-record 15 three-pointers in a 133-88 trouncing of the Miami Heat.

Scottie Pippen and Steve Kerr added 17 points apiece for the Bulls, who were 13-of-22 from three-point range.

Rookie Khalid Reeves scored 19 points.

In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored 21 points and hit two key free throws with 4.5 seconds remaining as the Sacramento Kings held off the Philadelphia 76ers, 85-82.

Walt Williams had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento. Dana Barros scored 23 points for Philadelphia.

Man United's manager made CBE

years ago made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) following his retirement from the British Army.

Master goalkicker Fox, who retired this year after scoring a New Zealand record 645 points in 46 test matches — the second highest in international rugby union — was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Ferguson, who guided his club to two successive English League titles and the double last season, was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

"It's the best birthday present you could get," said Ferguson, 53 on Saturday, whose side won the League and F. A. Cup last May, becoming only the fourth English team this century to do the double.

Ferguson, a Scot, was 10

years ago made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) following his retirement from the British Army.

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Welshman Jonathan Davies, one of the most successful converts to rugby league after starring for his country as a rugby union fly-half, was also awarded an MBE.

"It's a great honour and nice to be appreciated like this for services to the game of rugby in general," the Britain test star said.

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Fresh efforts launched to seek Afghan peace

KABUL (AFP) — A high-ranking U.N. delegation has arrived in Kabul to pave the way for the imminent arrival of U.N. special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, spokesman Charles Santos told journalists Saturday.

Mr. Santos would not state the purpose of Mr. Mestiri's visit. But it was expected to be the latest of U.N. efforts to end factional fighting between forces for and against Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and to reach a durable political settlement.

"Mestiri will meet the president and other Afghan leaders, including Ahmad Shah Masoud," said Mr. Santos, who is political advisor to Mr. Mestiri. He did not specify exactly when the U.N. envoy would arrive.

He also said it was not yet clear whether Mr. Mestiri would meet Mr. Rabbani's main rival, Hezb-e-Islami faction chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on this visit, but stressed "he will see Hekmatyar, that's definite."

The U.N. has asked for a ceasefire for the duration of Mr. Mestiri's visit, which they hope to parlay into a permanent cessation of hostilities.

"A permanent ceasefire is something of concern to the U.N., it's very important," Mr. Santos said.

David Lockwood, head of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), who flew by special U.N. flight to Afghanistan with Mr. Santos, said a political settlement to the

Afghan crisis would have a positive effect on the flow of economic aid to this war-torn country.

"If there is tangible progress for peace there is a greater possibility of funds from the international donors," said Mr. Lockwood.

Mr. Santos drew attention to a recent U.N. resolution that was passed Dec. 20 with the backing of 50 co-sponsors, as an example of the new "hands-on approach" that the world body is keen to adopt over Afghanistan.

"There is a higher level of international commitment to Afghanistan," Mr. Santos added.

He said as a result of this resolution U.N. personnel concerned with Afghan political affairs, those from the Office of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan (OSGA), will no longer shuttle back and forth from Pakistan, but will move permanently from Islamabad to Afghanistan.

"The first U.N. political presence will be in Jalalabad, with numerous visits to Kabul," Mr. Santos said, adding that eventually OSGA would be permanently located in Kabul.

Meanwhile, no announcement has come from Mr. Rabbani concerning a transfer of power on Saturday, the last official day of his two-year interim body.

Following the rumble of heavy weapons fire Friday night the Kabul frontlines

were calm Saturday and no major rocketing incident was reported.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Saturday urged the warring Afghan factions to accept a ceasefire to enable the U.N. peace envoy to visit Afghanistan.

An OIC statement said its secretary general, Hamid Alqaifi, "requested all Afghan parties to accept and abide by the ceasefire appeal issued by the United Nations to enable the U.N. special mission... to visit various parts of Afghanistan."

Envoy from the United Nations and the 52-member OIC have been trying to bring about a permanent ceasefire between the warring sides in Afghanistan, but without success so far.

Afghan sources said on Thursday Mr. Mestiri had asked for a three-day truce at a meeting with representatives of a coordination council of opponents of President Rabbani to enable him to visit Kabul.

The council promised to consider the request, they said.

"On Monday, Mr. Rabbani's administration last week declared a unilateral ceasefire and offered to step down under a formula it sought to agree with its opponents.

But his opponents called the offer a trick and have not ordered a ceasefire.

Iraq paper sees end to sanctions, return to fold

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The United Nations will in 1995 lift the sanctions in force against Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, an official newspaper predicted Saturday.

Al-Iraq, run by Kurdish parties loyal to Baghdad, also saw hope for the country regaining its place in the Arab World after its ostracisation because of the invasion.

"1995 will witness the collapse of the blockade," it said, referring to the crippling U.N. embargo.

"The first months of 1995 will witness a positive change in Iraq's favour within international bodies... as the U.S.-British axis inside the U.N. Security Council is increasingly isolated," it said.

The other permanent members of the council — France, Russia and China — have been lobbying for sanctions to be eased, after Baghdad in November recognised Kuwait's sovereignty, a key U.N. demand.

But the United States and Britain insist sanctions be kept in place until Baghdad implements all Security Council resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war which evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

On the home front, Al Iraq said next year would see the government regain control of the north of the country that has been held by the Kurdish opposition since 1991.

The year 1995 will see Kurdish return to the

homeland, closing forever the chapter of treason," Al Iraq assured, noting northern Iraq had been rocked by clashes between rival Kurdish factions.

The paper also hoped Iraq would return to the Arab fold, after its ostracisation because of the Kuwait invasion.

"The Arabs will hopefully take measures in order to correct the course of events."

They have realised the dangers of cancelling Iraq's role, which parts to be dragged into the Zionists' arms.

In Cairo, meanwhile, Arab League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid foresaw Iraq's reintegration on condition that it resolved the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners taken during the Gulf crisis.

"To achieve the reconciliation we hope for, Iraq must take an initiative toward the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners or those it calls the missing," Dr. Abdul Meguid told the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram.

"It is important to find a swift solution to this humanitarian question so that Iraq can once again become an additional force for united Arab action," said the secretary general.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said he would embark on a tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on Monday aimed at securing a reconciliation after the rift which emerged because of the invasion of Kuwait.

Militant hanged in Cairo; authorities step up security

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Islamic militant was hanged in Cairo on Saturday for belonging to an underground group working to overthrow the Egyptian government, the official news agency MENA said.

The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, said security had been stepped up for New Year's Eve.

The executed convict, Hamad Lutfi Abdul Baki, of the Al Gamia Al Islamiyah, was also found guilty of plotting to carry out terrorist attacks and for possession of weapons and explosives, MENA said.

He was arrested in November, after having already been sentenced to death in absentia before a military court at the start of the year. He was allegedly paid \$40,000 to mount attacks.

President Hosni Mubarak, who rejected an appeal from Abdul Baki for his life, transferred the trials of Islamic militants from civilian to military courts in October 1992 for swifter and harsher verdicts.

Sixty death sentences have since been passed, 41 of which have now been carried out. The last hanging took place on Nov. 9 in the north-

Turkey crash toll rises to 56

ANKARA (Agencies) — The death toll from the crash of a Turkish Airlines aircraft in eastern Turkey rose to 56 on Saturday.

A passenger died from his injuries overnight Friday in a hospital in Van, near the crash site. Twenty people were wounded.

The Boeing 737-400 with 69 passengers, including two crew, and seven crew, on board, crashed as it attempted a landing in a snowstorm at Van airport.

Technical experts from the airline examined the crash debris early Saturday for clues as to what caused the crash. The plane broke into three when it hit a snow-covered mountain.

Officials have made no arrests and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said the Justice Department, armed with new anti-violence laws for abortion clinics, would not say with certainty that the man did both shootings.

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Van airport reopened for Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and five members of her cabinet to fly in to visit the injured in hospital.

Ms. Ciller cancelled a year-end televised address to the nation on Friday night and dropped plans to hold a New Year's Eve party in the northern town of Karabuk, her office said in a statement.

A transport ministry official told Reuters the pilot of the 737-400, on a domestic Turkish Airline (THY) flight between Ankara and Van, could not see the approach to Van airport because of driving snow.

The Boeing, carrying 69 passengers and seven crew, crashed on its third attempt at landing. The pilot and four crew members died in the crash, the official said.

An airport flight controller suggested the plane fly back to Ankara or to the nearby city of Diyarbakir but the pilot insisted on trying to land one more time, the Transport Ministry said.

The pilot of the flight recorder, or black box, had been delayed but would probably confirm bad weather as the cause of the crash, the ministry said.

Television pictures showed the aircraft ripped apart and lines of bodies half-buried in deep snow.

"I didn't see anyone when I climbed out of the wreckage. People were shouting for help and I managed to pull a young girl out," survivor Sinan Celik told Anatolian news agency.

The Van regional governor's office said 10 members of the security forces were among the casualties. Civilian aircraft often carry military personnel to airports in eastern Turkey where Kurdish guerrillas are active.

Soldiers and paramilitary gendarmerie troops took part in the rescue operation in more than two metres of snow.

THY said the worst air crash in Turkey was in 1976 in the southwestern province of Iskenderun where 155 people were killed.

The cafe was packed at the

time but the impact of the

blast was reduced as the coat was hanging behind a refrigerator. But flying glass hit the 37-year-old tour guide in the jugular and she died before she could be rushed to hospital, Mr. Gureli said.

Three men and a woman forced the driver to stop the vehicle which was going from the capital Ankara to Istanbul, made other passengers move to the back of the bus, opened fire on them and threw a hand grenade.

An 18-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man were killed in the 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT) attack nears Hereke, 100 kilometres from Istanbul, and 25 of the 50 passengers were injured, Anatolia said.

Police have said they foiled attacks planned for Saturday by making more than 40 arrests of suspected Islamic militants trying to reform the underground Talath Al-Fatah (see page 2).

Ten thousand tourists arrived at Cairo airport in the previous two days, according to Al Wafid newspaper.

Abdul Baki was convicted of planting explosives on a military airbase near the Libyan border in the hope of assassinating President Mubarak, during a visit, security sources said.

Abdul Baki was sentenced to death in his absence by a military court in Alexandria in March along with another civilian and an army officer.

The two others — Lieutenant Medhat Eltahawi and Mohammed Said Saleh — were executed in March.

Sixty death sentences have since been passed, 41 of which have now been carried out. The last hanging took place on Nov. 9 in the north-

ern city of Alexandria.

More than 550 people have been killed since Islamic militants declared war on the government in March 1992.

The Interior Ministry said security measures had been stepped up outside churches, hotels, nightclubs, restaurants and cinemas to guard against attacks on New Year's Eve.

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